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THE TAXATION QUESTION.

OUR best course, we think, with regard to the constitutional inquiry which this week comes before Parliament for discussion will be to give an analysis of the Report of the Committee on Tax Bills, accompanied by such a commentary as shall make its chief points intelligible. The report has a high historical interest—such an interest as mere temporary questions cannot pretend to. But it is rather too lengthy for very general perusal; nor, indeed, will it be readily comprehended, except by those who have been in the habit of studying with some attention our English Parliamentary history.

We need scarcely repeat what we have often said of the value of our system of basing upon *precedents* in this country. By so doing we make all our past experience as a nation available at every new step of our career; and we keep up the continuity of our national existence. It adds, greatly, also to the dignity of our liberties that we should be able to trace them so long, and prove their strength and reality so early. For instance, what a curious, venerable, old picture is afforded by the first precedent quoted by our Committee—that called the “Indemnity” of 1407! It carries us back to Froissart and Chaucer at a bound; to the mailed knights, bearded burgess, yeomen, and minstrels of feudal England. The King—Henry IV.—meets his Lords spiritual and temporal within the old Abbey of Gloucester, and they discourse (much, as we have all been discoursing this year) “concerning the state of the kingdom, and how to defend it against the malice of enemies,” with the usual deduction (also made by us in 1860) that money will be necessary for the purpose. Thereupon the Lords suggest that certain sums shall be levied, and a message is sent to the Commons to ask them to appoint a portion of their body to hear what the King and Lords have to say on the subject. But the Commons are “greatly disturbed” at this. They represent to his Majesty that, though both Houses may consult freely among themselves regarding national measures, “neither the Lords on their part, nor the Commons

on theirs, should make any report to our said Lord the King of any grant granted by the Commons and assented to by the Lords . . . before that the said Lords and Commons are of one assent and one accord in that matter.”

The grievance is plain. The Lords had been acting, or beginning to act, without their co-operation. And as money was in question, and it was the money interest that the burgesses represented, this was not to be borne. Mr. Hallam and other constitutional writers have laid stress on this passage in our history—1. As establishing the principle that money bills must originate in the House of Commons; and, 2. As establishing the right of the Houses to decide such things, jointly, before laying the result before the King.

This precedent is given in full by the Committee, no doubt because of its importance in the great political struggle of the seventeenth century, though, strictly, the report only professes to deal with cases in detail from 1628. It was in that year that the preamble of supply bills assumed its present form—“We, your Majesty’s most faithful Commons, have given,” &c., which reduced the principle of the Commons’ initiative in supply matters to a regular formula. We would point out here the moderation with which our ancestors handled delicate points of this kind. The Lords did not like being left out of this preamble, and, though they passed the bill with it, they retained the bill in their House, “to which much exception was taken.” “Nevertheless,” says the report, “the Speaker presented it in due time for the King’s assent;” and we find collision avoided in this kind of way on many occasions.

Of what nature those occasions were the report of the Committee goes on to tell us at considerable length, and under different headings. That of the “Short Parliament” of 1640 was left undetermined by its dissolution. That of 1671 opened the question of the power of the Lords to “amend” bills of supply and tax bills, when the Commons resolved that “in all aids given to the King by the Commons the rate or tax ought not to be altered by the Lords,” their Lordships protesting,

meanwhile, that they had the right. In 1678 the Commons made a still more emphatic assertion of the above principle. And yet they never carried it to excess, for “there are a few instances,” says the report (vii.), “where the Lords have amended bills of supply and the Commons have agreed to such amendments.” These, however, they always made marked and special cases of, the collision possible being still staved off while a jealous salvo for the dignity of the House was kept up. This peaceable result was achieved in several ways, sometimes by prorogation of Parliament, and sometimes by a tacit dropping of the bills which might cause dispute. (See x.)

The Lords have claimed the right of amending or rejecting supply bills in cases where the Commons have annexed or “tacked” anything to them foreign to their general purpose. But this demands scarcely any discussion just now.

A more interesting portion of the report is that of which the heading is “Public bills which operate as a charge on the people.” These bills are such as, without being strictly money bills, have indirectly a monetary effect. The Committee enumerates several instances in which the Commons have refused to accept them when originating in the House of Lords, and quotes a “standing order” of May, 1849, in which such refusal is classed among the “ancient and undoubted privileges” of the Lower House. As to the point of *originating* such measures, however, the Commons’ right admits of no controversy, and has admitted of none for centuries past. “Public Charge Bills,” as they have been called, have frequently brought the Houses into apparent collision, the Lords aiming to exercise the right of amending them pretty regularly. “Latterly,” we are told, “the Commons have occasionally disagreed to amendment on the sole ground of privilege, without offering other reasons; but the more usual practice has been to lay the bill aside at once. . . . Not unfrequently,” adds the Committee, “when that has been done new bills have been brought in for carrying into effect the same object, some of which embodied the Lords’ amendments in whole or part.”



THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.—THE DEPARTURE OF HER MAJESTY. —(FROM A SKETCH BY B. CLAYTON, LONDON IRISH RIFLES.)

Here we have curious example of the practice of compromise in our Constitution; since, in such instances, the Commons have condoned the offence (so to speak) against their privileges, while saving their dignity by not directly giving in.

Passing over a brief section on private bills, we come to that part of the document which deals with the *repeal* of bills relating to supply, taxes, or charges; and which, therefore, is of most immediate interest at present. The report cites several cases where bills for repealing or altering taxes have been rejected or postponed by the House of Lords. In 1714 a bill for the relief of wine merchants in payment of their bonds was thus negatived, "and nothing further was done upon it;" while, the year after, a similar measure had precisely the same fate. Cases of postponement are quoted from the records of 1758, 1767, 1791, and 1808. "And, on the 2nd of July, 1858," the report adds, "the Church Rates Abolition Bill, having been sent from the Commons, was rejected by the Lords." This last event, of course, had an indirect relation to taxation; but no immediate connection with the supply of the year.

The conclusion of an impartial reader of the report thus glanced at will probably be that, in theory, the House of Commons has always claimed not only the right to originate all money bills, but the right to save them from alteration or rejection; but that, practically, it has never pushed the right *a l'outrance*, and has even sometimes acquiesced in the Lords' proceedings when the Lords have endeavoured to show that their "assent" is not a form or a farce, but a power which they hold in reserve. In the case of an ancient, unwritten Constitution like ours, a decent obscurity always veils the ultimate powers of the different governing bodies. Controversies must occasionally arise, and concessions are made on both sides for the sake of the general fabric. Everything depends on the prudence and magnanimity of statesmen at such times of crisis. At present, so peculiar are the circumstances under which the House of Lords raised this point again, that we shall probably once more get off with a compromise—a reservation of rights—on both sides, and a postponement of the ulterior difficulties lying in the future. But if the House of Lords should interpret this into a *carte blanche* for the settlement on their side of any and every obscure question that exists about the relative rights of the Houses, the triumph (if it is a triumph) will have done them far more harm than good. It is the interest of the country that the two Houses should be friendly; but, if ever there comes a real struggle between them as to which is strongest, there can be little doubt, we apprehend, which will go to the wall.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* announces that a project of law has been laid before the Corps Legislatif demanding its approval of the convention for the establishment of a submarine telegraph between France and the United States. The same journal records the presentation to the Corps Legislatif of the project of law relative to the calling out of 100,000 men of the class 1860.

The Duke de Grammont, M. Benedetti, and M. de Talleyrand-Perigord are appointed grand officers of the Legion of Honour.

The Marquis d'Antoniini, the Neapolitan Minister at the Court of the Tuileries, has resigned.

The funeral of Prince Jerome, on Tuesday, was magnificent. The Ambassadors assisted at the ceremony, and an immense crowd was present. Troops lined the whole route from the gates of the Palais Royal to those of the Invalides, where the Prince was buried. The clergy of St. Roch, assisted by the Emperor's chaplains, took charge of the corpse, and marched before and by the side of it, carrying lighted wax tapers. The funeral-car was the very one used for the interment of the lamented Duke of Orleans, but it had been redecorated, and was resplendent with silver ornaments. The pallbearers were M. Fould, Minister of State; Admiral Hamelin, Minister of Marine; Marshal Vaillant; and M. Troplong, the President of the Senate. Prince Napoleon was the chief mourner, and it was remarked that he appeared profoundly afflicted. He followed the coffin bareheaded, wearing a black cloak over his general's uniform. The Marshals commanding districts had been summoned to Paris to take part in the ceremony, and marched behind Prince Napoleon. The procession was so long that it took upwards of two hours to defile. Cardinal Morlot, Archbishop of Paris, performed the funeral service; and after an oration by the Bishop of Troyes the body was lowered into the vault of the Chapel of St. Jerome, which the deceased Prince some time since selected for his resting-place.

A report is current in Paris that the Emperor will confer on Prince Napoleon all the political prerogatives enjoyed by Prince Jerome, particularly the post of President of the Privy Council and of the Council of Ministers, in the absence of the Emperor. There is also something said about giving Prince Napoleon the dotation of Prince Jerome.

SPAIN.

Telegraphic advices from Madrid announce that Government has presented an electoral bill to the Cortes. The number of deputies is fixed at 389; the minimum of electors in each district will be 300. Deputies are declared incompetent to hold any public functions out of Madrid, except the post of Ambassadors and Ministers Plenipotentiary.

The Emperor of Morocco has placed one instalment of the indemnity at the disposal of Spain.

ITALY.

ROME.

The Pope, on the occasion of the anniversary of his installation, commuted the punishment of 70 out of a total of 212 political prisoners. On the previous day two battalions of Irish volunteers entered the barracks of Rome. The desertions from the Swiss regiments continue.

Reports are current that the Papal Government is about to grant reforms, and not a moment too soon, perhaps, for according to late advices the fermentation in Rome is rapidly increasing.

SARDINIA.

It is stated that the Russian Government has earnestly remonstrated with the Piedmontese on the recruiting carried on in the Sardinian States for the army of Garibaldi, notwithstanding the repeated declarations that it was without its authority or consent, and that the Sardinian Government had no means of preventing it. To those declarations, it would appear, the Russian Government gives little credence,—so little that it has announced its determination to withdraw its Minister from Turin and break off diplomatic relations if the practice be persisted in.

GERMANY.

Since the meeting of German Sovereigns at Baden the Prussian Ambassador, Baron Werther, has had several conferences with Count Rechberg with the object of bringing about a perfect understanding between Austria and Prussia. If it be true that Austria no longer insists upon a guarantee of the integrity of her dominions such an understanding will be greatly facilitated.

A letter from Berlin in the *Debats* says:—"Interviews between Sovereigns appear to be the order of the day. The Emperor of Austria is shortly to have one with the King of Bavaria, and the Prince Regent with the Emperor of Russia. Nothing has yet been decided as to the city where the latter event will take place, but a definitive answer is expected from St. Petersburg, making known whether the Emperor will come to meet his mother, the Empress Dowager, at

Berlin, or whether the Prince Regent will accompany her Majesty t Warsaw, where her son will join her. It becomes every day more and more certain that no particular arrangements were concluded at Baden between Prussia and the secondary States, and that, consequently, it cannot be said that any conciliation has been effected between conflicting opinions. To the allusions made by the King of Wurtemberg on this subject the Prince Regent replied by asking for a written statement of the points on which it was desired that Prussia should change her policy, and also of the questions on which the secondary States were disposed to make concessions. The negotiations will therefore resume the ordinary course of diplomatic correspondence."

SWITZERLAND AND SAVOY.

The French Government has communicated to the Powers that it is willing to accept one of the three following modes for settling its differences with Switzerland:—1. To negotiate direct with the Federal Government. 2. To admit to this negotiation the Powers who signed the final Act of Vienna. 3. To assemble in Conference.

The Federal Council has received the official notification that England has declared, in reply to M. Thouvenel's note, that she accepts the first proposal of France—namely, the meeting of a conference. Count Rechberg has intimated that Austria does not object to be represented in the conference. Heads that Austria recognises the right of Switzerland to take part in the Conference. She persists, however, in maintaining that Sardinia can show no title for being represented therein, Count Cavour having himself stated that, in consequence of the Treaty of the 24th of March, Sardinia would henceforth remain a stranger to all questions in reference to Savoy.

It is asserted that Switzerland will submit to the Conference the following question only:—"Is it in the interest of Europe and the neutrality of Switzerland to leave the Simplon Pass perfectly accessible to France, without demanding any fresh guarantees?" Should this question obtain a solution unsatisfactory to Switzerland she would confine herself to taking cognisance of the declarations in which France engaged herself to assume all the military obligations resulting from Article 92 of the Final Act of Vienna. Switzerland, besides, would claim the right, in case of war, of militarily occupying the neutralised districts of Chablais and Faucigny. Switzerland would also state her reserves, the insertion of which in the protocols of the Conference she would demand, and would maintain in principle all the rights which are guaranteed to her by treaties.

From a report of the Military Department of Switzerland, which has just been published, it appears that on the 31st of December last the Swiss army consisted of 179,730 men, of whom 79,087 were in active service, 43,227 in the reserve, and 57,416 in the landwehr. In the total are not included the contingents which the cantons have to supply to the Confederation. The report remarks that some of the cantons, especially Vaud, maintain an effective almost double that which the Federal statutes require.

A doubtful report reaches us from Nice, by the usual way through Antibes and Paris. The inhabitants of the villages kept by Sardinia are flying and seeking shelter on the French territory, because persons who cry "Long live France!" are maltreated by the Sardinian functionaries.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

The festival of the Beiram, as despatches from Constantinople affirm, has not led to those outbursts of Mohammedan fanaticism that were apprehended, and everything went off well and orderly at the Sultan's usual procession through the streets. The good humour of the troops had been made sure of by a month's pay being handed over to them immediately before the festival.

The Finance Commission has been transformed into a Council of Control, with extended powers. Mehemed Ruschdi Pasha has been appointed President of the new Council.

From Albania, as well as from the Lebanon, reports have come to hand denying, in the first case, that any disturbance had taken place at all; and showing, in the latter, the religious strife between the Druses and the Maronites as gradually subsiding.

AMERICA.

An important debate on the African slave trade has taken place in the American Senate. An effort was made by the extreme Southern party to secure the adoption of a proposal that the treaty with Great Britain should be abrogated, unless that Power would consent to defray the expense of returning the captured Africans. This gave rise to an animated debate, in which Mr. Seward and Mr. Wilson called attention to the increase of the American branch of the slave trade, and urged upon the Government the duty of greater activity with a view to its suppression.

The Northern Democratic Convention has nominated Mr. Douglass for the Presidency. The Southern Democrats have nominated Mr. Breckenridge.

The *St. Louis Democrat* learns that Captain Simpson had passed through that city, en route for Washington, with despatches from Utah, containing propositions from Brigham Young to sell the Mormon property at Salt Lake to the United States, the saints to remove to some point on the Pacific coast, either in the British possessions or the United States.

The Japanese Embassy arrived at New York on the 16th ultimo, and met with a brilliant reception. The military escort which accompanied them to their quarters at the Metropolitan Hotel numbered over 7000 men. The hotel was brilliantly illuminated in the evening, and the Princes were honoured with a serenade. On the 18th the Ambassadors were officially received and welcomed by the Mayor.

CHINA.

Letters from Hong-Kong to the 3rd of May describe the occupation of Chusan:—

A flag of truce was sent on shore with Mr. Parkes, the allied Commissioner of Canton, who explained to the red-button Mandarin who represented the Chinese Government that our troops had come to occupy the island; and that, as we did not wish to put him or his people to unnecessary inconvenience, it would be as well for all parties that he should shut up at once, and offer no resistance. As this request was backed by a force of 3000 "red-haired Western devils" and several ships of war, the Mandarin appears to have thought it a very reasonable one. He accordingly replied with the utmost politeness and a strict observance of "the rites," that he had hoped we had come as his dear friends; and that he had been looking forward with inexpressible longing to the felicity of receiving us as such, and of doing the honour of his poor island; that it was extremely saddening to find we considered ourselves at war with his country; and that really, as he had no sufficient force at his disposal for resistance, he thought the best thing he could do was not to attempt any; and he therefore begged we would make ourselves perfectly at home. Whereupon some of the troops were landed, and formal possession taken, and the next morning the English and French flags were hoisted on the top of the two principal "yansuns," as the official residence of the mandarins are called. The Chinese troops, amounting to 2000 on paper, and perhaps 500 in reality, gave up their arms with the utmost alacrity, and turned their attention to the safer and pleasanter occupation of making dollars by trading with the troops.

The French effected their joint occupation of Chusan with 300 of their Marines, and made up for the smallness of their force by the magnitude of the quarters they demanded to put it into.

The army had been organised in two divisions: the 1st, under Major-General Sir J. Michel, K.C.B.; the 2nd, under Major-General Sir Robert Napier, K.C.B. In all, the force consisted of three companies of Royal Engineers, two companies of native Sappers, eight batteries of Royal Artillery, two batteries of native Artillery, two squadrons of European cavalry, five squadrons of native cavalry, nine regiments of European infantry, and five regiments of natives. With the exception of the Artillery and Sappers from Madras, the natives of the force are all Sikhs and Panjabees.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.—The British Association met at Oxford on Wednesday last week. The Council met in the Clarendon Hall, the Association in the Sheldonian Theatre. The Prince Consort took the chair as President, and in a brief speech resigned the office to Lord Wrottesley, the President for the current year, chosen at Aberdeen last year. Lord Wrottesley then delivered the inaugural address, which, as usual, embraced the whole field of modern scientific discovery. The sections began business on Thursday.

NAPLES AND SICILY.

NAPLES is in a most disturbed condition; indeed, a telegram received on Saturday declared that a rising had taken place:—"The police are hunted down; the commissariat stores and archives have been burnt. Cannon have been placed inside the palace. Soldiers everywhere." But telegrams since received repeat the usual intelligence, "Naples is tranquil."

On the 27th the French Ambassador, Baron Brenier, while passing through the Strada di Toledo, where much agitation prevailed, received several blows on the head from a loaded cane. The King of Naples immediately declared to the French Government he would severely punish the guilty parties; but it seems they have not been found. The Baron is not much hurt; and a belief gains ground that the attack upon him was not prompted by political hostility.

Naples was declared in a state of siege after the disturbance in Toledo street in which Baron Brenier suffered.

The list of the new Neapolitan Ministry—meant to be a Liberal, constitutional, and Italian one—is now before us:—Commander Spinelli, President of the Council; Commander de Martino, Foreign Affairs; Signor Del R. Interior; Signor Manns, Finance; Prince Torella, Ecclesiastical Affairs; Signor Morelli, Public Works; Marshal Lestucci, War; Admiral Garofalo, Marine.

The fundamental point of the programme of Commander Spinelli is the formation of an Italian Confederation. "As recommended by the Emperor of the French. This Confederation to be essentially of a defensive character, and the independence of every State to be maintained, although national unity may be favoured." To achieve this result, a Royal decree announces that "an understanding is to be brought about with the King of Sardinia, relative to the common interests of the two Crowns in Italy." And from Turin we have the following intimation:—"It is asserted that Baron Talleyrand has been instructed by his Government to insist that Count Cavour should give due consideration to the overtures of the King of Naples, and the more so as these overtures were counselled by France."

The new Constitutional Neapolitan tricolour flag was hoisted at Fort St. Elmo on the 26th, and was saluted by the whole artillery of the forts. This tricolour flag has the King's arms in the centre.

The Government has agreed to give up the two ships captured on the high seas. Nothing is said about the men.

From Sicily we learn that the question of annexation—Garibaldi having now ceased to object to its being put at the earliest opportunity—will be settled by universal suffrage of the people as well as the Army. The committee charged with drawing up the lists and regulating the elections has already met.

Numerous arrests have taken place among the former functionaries of Palermo. Some of the people demanded that they should be shot.

Fresh massacres of the sbirri have taken place. Garibaldi had sent some columns to re-establish order in the interior of the island. Dissensions exist between the towns and the villages, and resistance is offered to the levying of the imposts; but the same ardour to drive the Neapolitans out of the island still prevails.

Garibaldi has published the following decree at Palermo:—"Considering the Jesuits and the Ligurians have, during the sad period of Bourbonist domination, been the most energetic abettors of despotism, in virtue of the powers conferred upon me, it is decreed:—The corporations of regulars existing in Sicily under the different names of societies and houses of Jesus and of the Redeemer are dissolved. The individuals composing them are expelled from the island and their estates annexed to the domains of the State."

The General has ratified a contract for the purchase of four large steam-transports, which are to be delivered to his agents in the port of Genoa, and paid for in cash.

POERIO ON THE AFFAIRS OF NAPLES.

On Friday, the 29th ult., the general discussion in the Turin Chamber of Deputies on the bill or loan was closed, and as the articles were put to the vote one by one, Baron Poerio, who had not thought of speaking, and was not prepared for it, was urged by his friends to address the House, and in a clear, sonorous tone, by no means impaired by the ill-health under which he has so long been labouring, and with a fluency and elegance of speech characteristic of the southern Italians, and seldom to be met with among their less gifted brethren of the north, he said:—

No doubt the instinct of self-preservation urges Governments as well as individuals to those resolutions which at a first glance seem the most desperate. A drowning man, hopeless of any other escape, will, in the agony of death, cling to and catch at any object within his reach. I, therefore, can well understand what the Government of Naples, which up to this moment was always the most fierce and implacable foe to Italian nationality—that Government which, with the most cowardly obstinacy, persecuted the generous men who aspired to that common object, should now all at once change its language, and put forth words of independence, patriotism, and nationality, seeking the protection and refuge of this Government, and suing, at least, for its moral support. Gentlemen, I have often seen men laden with the most hideous crimes, when brought before the court which is to try them, and unable to deny their offences, put forward words of compunction and repentance. Each Government has its traditions, from which it cannot depart. We need no argument to be convinced of this truth. The traditions of the Neapolitan Government are hereditary perjury. The new King, almost to prove the legitimacy of his descent, is preparing to perjure himself; and, in order to qualify himself for the task of forswearing, he must first swear. It is with that view that he declares himself ready to swear constitutions and alliances. His object in proposing an alliance with the King of Sardinia is obvious. He is only meditating the reconquest of Sicily. These are the old fox like wiles of the Neapolitan Government. As these have thrice availed them, they hope even now, from the same arts, to attain the same results. But, if these are very clearly the intentions of the Government of Naples, there is also no doubt but the Government of the King—that King who for the last twelve years has held aloft the banner of Italian nationality, will never desert its post, never will associate itself with a faith-breaking Government, a Government by the nature of its very institutions an implacable foe to Italian regeneration. I therefore trust that the King's ministers, following up that national Italian policy which they have so nobly pursued as heretofore, will never cross the hand of that Government which has so long combated our independence, waging against us that secret subterranean war which is very often so much more injurious than an open war. As I am intimately convinced that the King's Government will fulfil this sacred duty, a duty imposed upon them by all their foregoing policy and by the future of Italy, as a member of this parliament, whereon rest the hopes of Italy, I declare that I give my full assent to this bill, being certain that all the means entrusted to the Government by the vote of the representatives of the nation will always be employed for the increase of the public prosperity and for the future welfare of Italy.

This speech was received with loud applause, and the loan was voted by a majority of 215 against 3.

THE CASTE OF COLOUR.—Public attention has been repeatedly directed to the odious prejudice of colour which is manifested on board the Atlantic steam-ships; such a distinction being drawn between white and coloured passengers that the latter are not permitted to dine at the same table with the former. One of the latest illustrations of this system of caste which has been made public is that of Mrs. Putnam, a coloured lady who came to England in the *Europa*, and who, together with friends who accompanied her, was not permitted to take her meals with the other passengers. Now the *Europa* is a British mail steamer, and Sir Samuel Cunard, her owner, is an Englishman, who, for his public services, has been rewarded with a baronetcy. Mr. Commissioner Hill and the Rev. Edwin Chapman have written to Sir S. Cunard, making known to him the facts of Mrs. Putnam's treatment; and appealing to his sense of justice to adopt measures to prevent a recurrence of these acts of social oppression. This appeal, however, we regret to say, was wholly unavailing. Sir Samuel Cunard coldly declines to enter into any correspondence on the subject.

A NEW SWINDLE.—A man dressed as a clergyman lately called on a lady, and having by a few adroit questions found out she had a nephew in India, proceeded to tell her the young man had lately died there after a short illness, and he then went on to say there was a box and diamond ring at the Custom House for her, sent by her nephew, but that he must have £15 to clear the same, and if not done immediately all would be lost. Overwhelmed with grief she, without reflection, at once gave him the required sum, with which he departed, and, of course, has not since been heard of.

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF THE RIFLE, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST AND MOST APPROVED SYSTEMS.

RIFLES.

Although from the early application of rifling to gun-barrels it might appear that an allusion to the first invention of rifles should more properly be included in the account of the infancy of firearms, yet, as it is desirable to trace succinctly the progress of the rifle from its first development, we prefer to introduce it under the present heading.

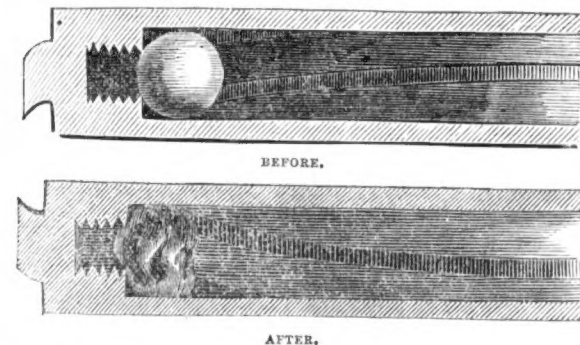
Only sixty-eight years after the invention of handguns, if the date mentioned by Sir Samuel Meyrick be correct, the objections to the smooth bore as regarded bullets became evident, for we find that in the year 1498 gun-barrels were grooved at Vienna. The original object in grooving a gun-barrel was to find space for the residue produced by discharging the piece, and thus to diminish the friction of the bullet as it was forced down by the ramrod. At this early stage of the invention the grooves consisted of two straight creases, cut parallel with the axis of the bore, but during the next twenty years a spiral turn was given to the grooves, the degree of hoist or spira varying as the skill and judgment of the workmen thought best; but, as few rifled pieces of that very early date are extant, it is difficult to say to what the exact turn amounted. It is, however, quite certain, from the specimens preserved in museums and armouries, that the straight grooving came again into favour, and was continued to the beginning of the seventeenth century. The earliest rifled barrels of a really good description are those ascribed to one Koster, a gunmaker of some repute at Nuremberg, during the last quarter of the century alluded to. He made the grooves to describe a circle between the breech and the muzzle. The ball cast purposely larger than the bore to admit of its forcibly receiving the indentations of the grooves during the act of loading. This theory, with certain modifications, is the primary principle on which rifles and rifle-bullets are constructed at the present day.

It was evident, from the first invention of the hand-gun, that the mechanical knowledge of the period, limited as it then was, enabled the armourers to perceive that a bullet impelled from a barrel formed after this fashion, and made to spin on its axis during its flight, was carried with much more steadiness and accuracy than one fired from a smooth bore; and many theories bearing evidences of keen and careful observation were put forward on the subject, but they were so interwoven with crudities that it was not until Robins's celebrated work on projectiles appeared in 1742 that any notions approaching correctness were obtained on the subject.

Many attempts were made during the wars following the French Revolution to make the rifle an efficient arm of the service; and the late Duke of York and other members of the Royal family, as well as military officers and noblemen, took a deep interest in the subject. We had established our 60th Rifles and our Rifle Brigade; but, although they did their part as well as the other regiments of the Light Brigade, there are not on record any very particular results from their skill as marksmen.

THE MODERN RIFLES.

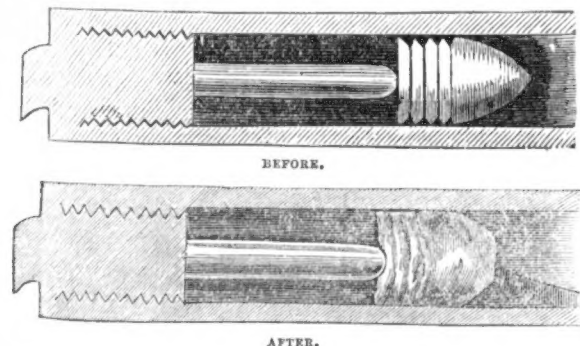
For very many years the French military authorities have paid the most unremitting attention to the improvement of smallarms for the use of the infantry; but until the year 1849 nothing that could be called a substantial improvement had been effected. They first tried the rifle invented by Captain Delvigne in 1826, the distinguishing feature of which was a hollow chamber in the breech of the barrel. This barrel having a shoulder formed by the difference of the calibre of the barrel and the chamber, the spherical ball passed freely down the barrel and rested on the shoulder, so that the ramrod was enabled to strike it forcibly without mauling or caking the powder, which lay secure in the chamber, and the bullet was by this means so flattened and beaten that it filled the grooves of the barrel, and became, as it were, solidly wedged, thus getting rid of the windage. But in doing this a portion of the soft lead got into the chamber, and the bullet was made to assume a form which materially impeded the evenness of its flight. The following diagram represents the ball before and after it has received the strokes from the ramrod:—



AFTER.

In 1840 M. Delvigne introduced a bullet of an elongated form, to increase the range and the correctness of the fire by increasing the weight of the projectile, and by diminishing the resistance of the air relatively to that weight. The bottom of that projectile was flat, the body cylindrical, and the front part ended in a conical point. He found, however, in this bullet, that it was apt to turn over at long ranges; and involved, besides, no particular principle. He therefore introduced a hollow into the larger extremity, for the purpose of carrying the centre of gravity farther forward, and that the ball might either be forced by the stroke of the ramrod, or by the action itself of the gases in the hollow and posterior part of the projectile, by dilating it. Here, in fact, was the more recent expansive principle, although in a crude state.

The next contrivance was introduced by Colonel Thouvenin. It consisted in the application of a cylindrical *tige* or pillar of steel, screwed into the breech, in the centre of the barrel, so that the bullet, when stopped by, and resting on, the flat end of the pillar, received, directly opposite, the blows of the ramrod, sufficient to effect the forcing, as in Captain Delvigne's mode of loading. This contrivance is called the *carabine à tige*. The following Cut shows the bullet before and after having been beaten down:—



AFTER.

The great event of the century has, however, been the revolution in military smallarms caused by Captain Minié's drawing together of what were previously only stray and undeveloped theories. But as M. Minié's adaptation was more immediately connected with projectiles than with the rifle itself we shall speak of it under that head.

OF GUN-BARRELS.

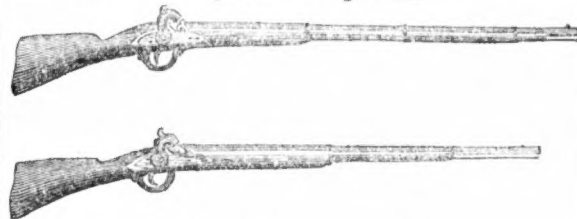
Gun-barrels being made for various purposes, and for different classes of purchasers, they vary considerably in the quality of the material, the

mode of their construction, and the amount of labour expended on them. The material in general use is iron, but steel is used to a considerable extent in the preparation of the high-priced barrels, and some of the most superior rifle-barrels are constructed entirely of steel. The metal used in gun-barrels must be possessed of the utmost tenacity and unyielding denseness, that the barrel may not bulge, and thus cause wildness and irregularity of range. Common iron is altogether unfitted for the purpose, being large, open, and loose in the grain. The iron, therefore, used by gunmakers is the best ever produced in this or any other country, and has by them been brought to the highest perfection. The more iron is hammered and drawn out the better it becomes, hence the manufacture of gun-barrels from old horsenails, or stubs, as they are technically called by the trade. The best barrels are always manufactured from small scraps of amalgamated metal; the common ones are made from rolled iron, and welded on one side. Some very superior barrels are made from clippings of steel and stubs placed alternately and welded together. Damascus barrels are made of alternate bars of iron and steel; they are not much cared for at present in England, but are much used on the Continent.

There is scarcely any subject on which more difference of opinion exists than on the grooving of rifle-barrels. There is scarcely a gunmaker of any eminence that has not his favourite principle. Then we have the French, the American, the Swiss, and the Sardinian systems. Some are for narrow grooves and broad lands, others for the reverse; but for simplicity of workmanship, accuracy of range, and general suitability to military service, it is the opinion of the highest military authorities that for a moderately-priced weapon there has been nothing yet produced able to compete with

THE ENFIELD RIFLE.

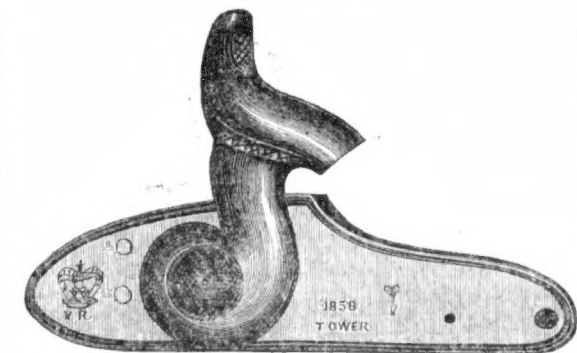
The rifles bearing this name are distinguished as the long and the short. The length of the barrel of the former is 3ft. 3in., and that of the latter 2ft. 9in., with a diameter of .577, the diameter of both barrels being alike. The total weight of each description of rifle, with the bayonet, is 9lb. 3oz. The weight of the sword-bayonet being much greater than that of the common bayonet equalises the difference caused by the greater length of the barrel. The rifling is effected by three grooves, the grooves cut slightly deeper at the breech than at the muzzle, and making one complete revolution in 78 inches. The regulation-charge of powder is 2½ grains. The Enfield rifle differs from that known as the Minié in the fact of the bore being reduced to its present diameter from .702. The weight of the Enfield bullet is 520 grs., that of the Minié 680 grs. The weight of the Minié rifle is 10lb. 8½oz. The latter rifle is one inch longer than the long Enfield.



LONG AND SHORT ENFIELD RIFLES.

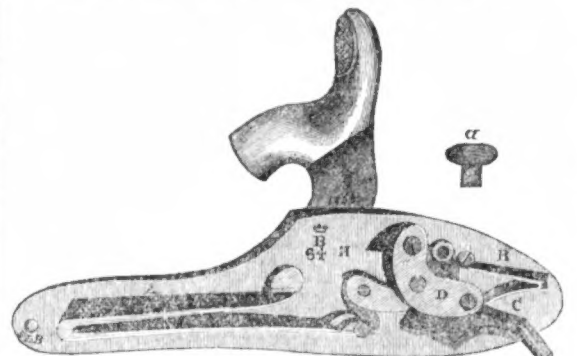
The Enfield rifle, although sighted for only 900 yards, will carry a bullet at least 1500 yards. Models having been required by the British authorities in 1852, a number were submitted, and the basis of the present weapon was founded on those furnished by Greener, Purday, Richards, Lancaster, and Wilkinson. The sight was the invention of Westly Richards. The rifles manufactured at Enfield are made by machinery, at a cost of £3 0s. 9½d. each, and 1100 are turned out weekly.

THE ENFIELD LOCK.



THE LOCK OUTSIDE.

The education of a rifleman cannot be considered complete unless he is able to take the lock asunder and clean it. The lock certainly does not, like the barrel, require to be cleaned internally every time it is used; but it is advisable to look at it now and then, and circumstances may occur in which the gunmaker's aid is not available. The different parts of the Enfield lock are described in the annexed diagram.



THE LOCK.

A. The Mainspring.—The large spring by which the tumbler and the hammer are worked. E. The Tumbler.—The centrepiece, which moves with the hammer, and in which are the bents, or notches, where the sear catches at half and full cock. D. The Bridge.—A piece of steel which covers the tumbler, and in which the tumbler works. It is fixed to the lock-plate at the top by two screws, called the bridge-screws, and at the bottom by another screw, called the sear-screw. C. The Sear is that part which catches the tumbler at half and full cock, and which the upper part of the trigger pushes up to discharge the rifle. B. The Searspring.—This spring presses the sear against, and holds it in the bents or notches of the tumbler for either half or full cock. The Swivel is a crooked bit of steel, somewhat like the letter S.—It is attached to the tumbler at one end, and at the other it receives the end of the mainspring. The Detant is a little piece of movable metal attached to the tumbler to prevent the sear from catching at half cock when the trigger is pressed. It keeps the sear from going into the half bent until the hammer is let down and drawn back again. The Tumbler Screw is a screw which fastens on the hammer.

In taking the lock to pieces proceed as follows:—1. Place the lock on full cock; take the springvice and cramp the mainspring, screwing the springvice gently, just sufficient to give the hammer a little play; let down the hammer, and the mainspring will easily be detached from the swivel and seat in the lockplate. It may be advisable to let the mainspring remain in the springvice until it is again replaced, as cramping the mainspring when it is off the lock is a somewhat difficult matter to the uninitiated. 2. Place the lock on halfcock, and unscrew the bridge-screws and then the sear-screw, and be careful not to mix them. 3. Take off the bridge and then the sear. 4. Unscrew and take off the sear-spring. 5. Unscrew and take off the hammer. 6. Take off the tumbler, and then the swivel and detant. Having done all this, wipe the different parts first with an oiled rag, and then with a rag quite dry. If any spots of rust appear, either in the lockplate, more particularly in the tumbler, axlehole, or any of the different parts, they should be removed with the oiled rag. No cleaning powder of any kind should be used for this purpose, as it would destroy the case-hardening of those parts that are not steel.

THE CONFERENCE AT BADEN-BADEN.

WHATEVER might have been the intention of the Emperor of the French in promoting the Congress at Baden, it would seem that its result has not been such as he at first anticipated. It would indeed scarcely have been worth Louis Napoleon's while to have gone so far for the mere purpose of securing the permanence of the policy which Prussia has all along been pursuing. Yet this is the end of it apparently.

While the reasons for the conference being proposed were (according to French official reports) that the Emperor might silence certain "evil rumours" and "false appreciations," while he explained that his policy would "never deviate from the principles of right and justice;" it appears that these assurances were only received with the politeness which was necessary to the occasion—a politeness which, as the *Moniteur* observes, "was more than courteous," since it was accompanied by the very strict etiquette of a formal meeting where great interests had to be insisted on.

If the French Emperor had intended only to pay a conversational visit to the Prince Regent of Prussia, and see what sort of hand he held, that he might play accordingly, that design has been obviously frustrated, since it became a much more serious affair when all the German Sovereigns thought it necessary to be present and see fair. The absence of the Austrian was perhaps not much to be regretted, since, although the meeting seems to have created some jealousy at Vienna, it is probable that the whole affair would have become greatly complicated had they joined the conference. As it was, those who were present seemed sufficiently satisfied with the wisely reticent expressions of the Prince Regent of Prussia, who plainly intimated that he should continue the policy which he had been pursuing in reference to Prussia and Germany—a policy which he hoped would be adopted by the other German Governments.

Although, politically considered, the Emperor of the French may not have secured the precise object which he wished to attain by his visit to Baden, there is no doubt that he received there with great cordiality, and that the various Sovereigns met on terms of complete amity; and, indeed, he himself seems to have endeavoured to break down those barriers of etiquette and formality which are always considered necessary on such occasions. Thus he walks out to hear mass, and deprecates the shouting of "Vive l'Empereur!" which greeted him from the crowd assembled in the streets; then he makes a friendly call on the King of Hanover at the Hôtel d'Angleterre, but found that his Majesty was out, not having expected him. Nothing daunted, he calls again in a phaeton, and runs up to the blind Monarch's apartments without being announced, but (perhaps as an apology for his unceremonious visit) brings out the grand cordon of the Legion of Honour which he has carried with him. After this he seems to leave the phaeton behind altogether, and trudges off to see the Duke of Nassau, who, by-the-by, lodges somewhere in the same street. After all, however, the Kings waited on the Emperor at the Villa Stephanie, to take leave; and it is believed that a very friendly feeling was manifested throughout.

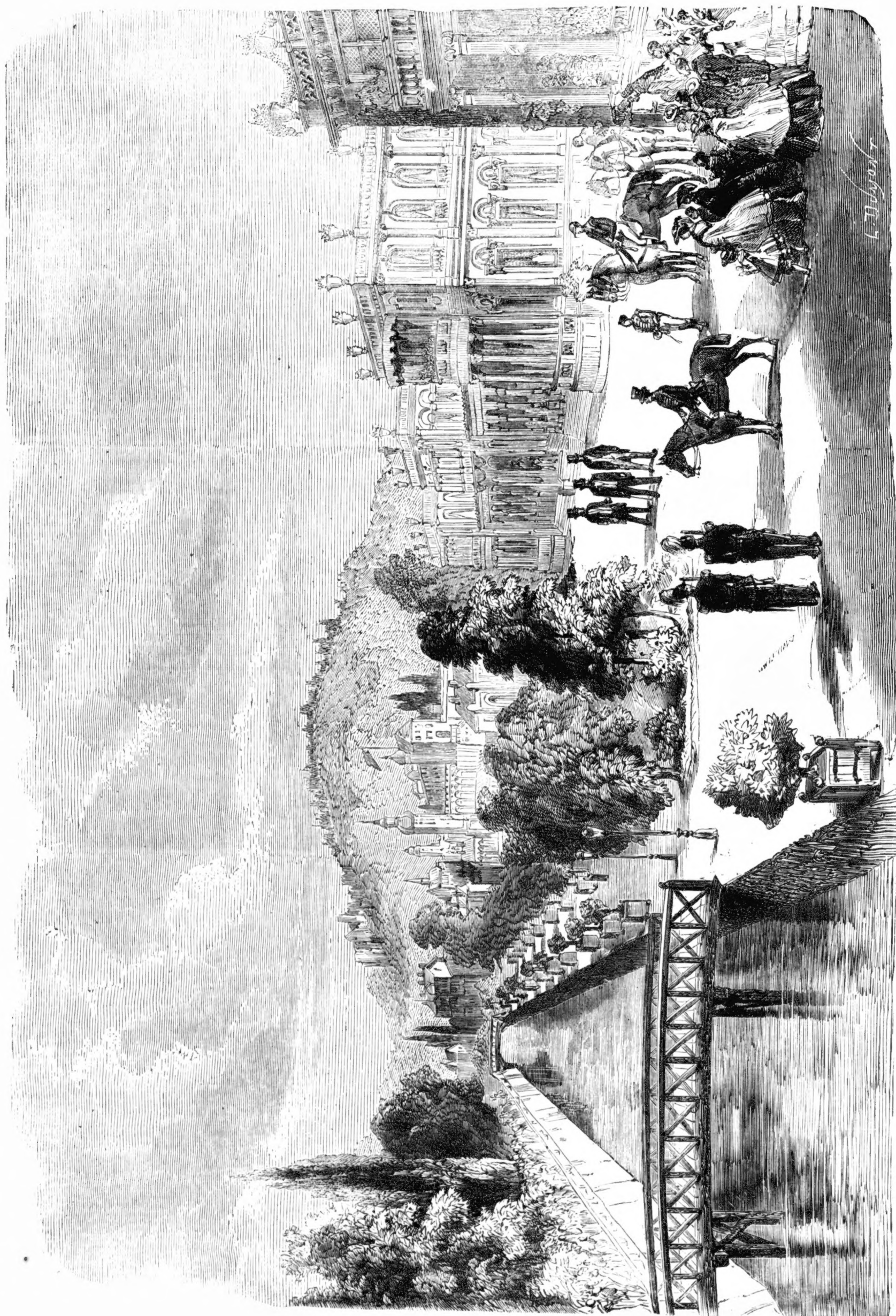
Of course the people of Strasburg, who had been made acquainted with the fact that the Emperor would pass through their streets in his way, took the opportunity of decorating their houses, and all the principal places were draped with the tricolor; while the houses before which the Royal cortège passed were garlanded with all sorts of devices, the windows and balconies being filled with an enthusiastic crowd, who saluted his Majesty with shouts, bouquets, and wreaths. Once arrived at Baden, the Emperor betook himself to the Villa Stephanie, represented in our Engraving. This very beautiful and newly-erected building is admirably adapted to the purpose for which it had been set apart; for, while it is situated on the bank of the river running by the side of the promenade, it is attached to elegant gardens, and the view from the terraces and balconies commands a considerable extent of very beautiful country. The internal decorations and arrangements of this mansion are of the most sumptuous description. The particular apartment used as the hall of conference is entirely separated from the rest of the building.

There seems to have been some difference of opinion amongst the various "correspondents" as to the amount of pleasure, or the contrary, evinced by the people at Baden on the arrival of the French Emperor and during his several appearances in public. Some intimation of intentional disrespect has been expressed in some journals, and Mr. William Chamber endeavours to correct what he seems to consider at least a mistaken impression. He says:—"I was at Baden all the time of the conference, and, like others, saw what was done publicly. No doubt, the most popular man of the whole Royal party was the Prince Regent of Prussia—as it was quite proper he should be so. But public curiosity and interest respecting Napoleon were intense. On Saturday, the 16th, vast crowds of people came from all quarters to Baden, to see the Emperor, and on Sunday, the 17th, the fever was at its height. Masses of persons of all ranks floated about from point to point, in the hope of catching a glimpse of this remarkable personage. Now, I can confidently say, so far as my experience goes, that on every occasion the Emperor was received with decorous respect. There were few who did not take off their hats and stand uncovered as he passed. The Germans are not a shouting people, and 'Vive l'Empereur!' is not their language or their cry; yet, on Saturday, when Napoleon drove off from the hotel of the Prince Regent of Prussia, there was a good deal of lively exclamation. At no time did I hear a single hiss."

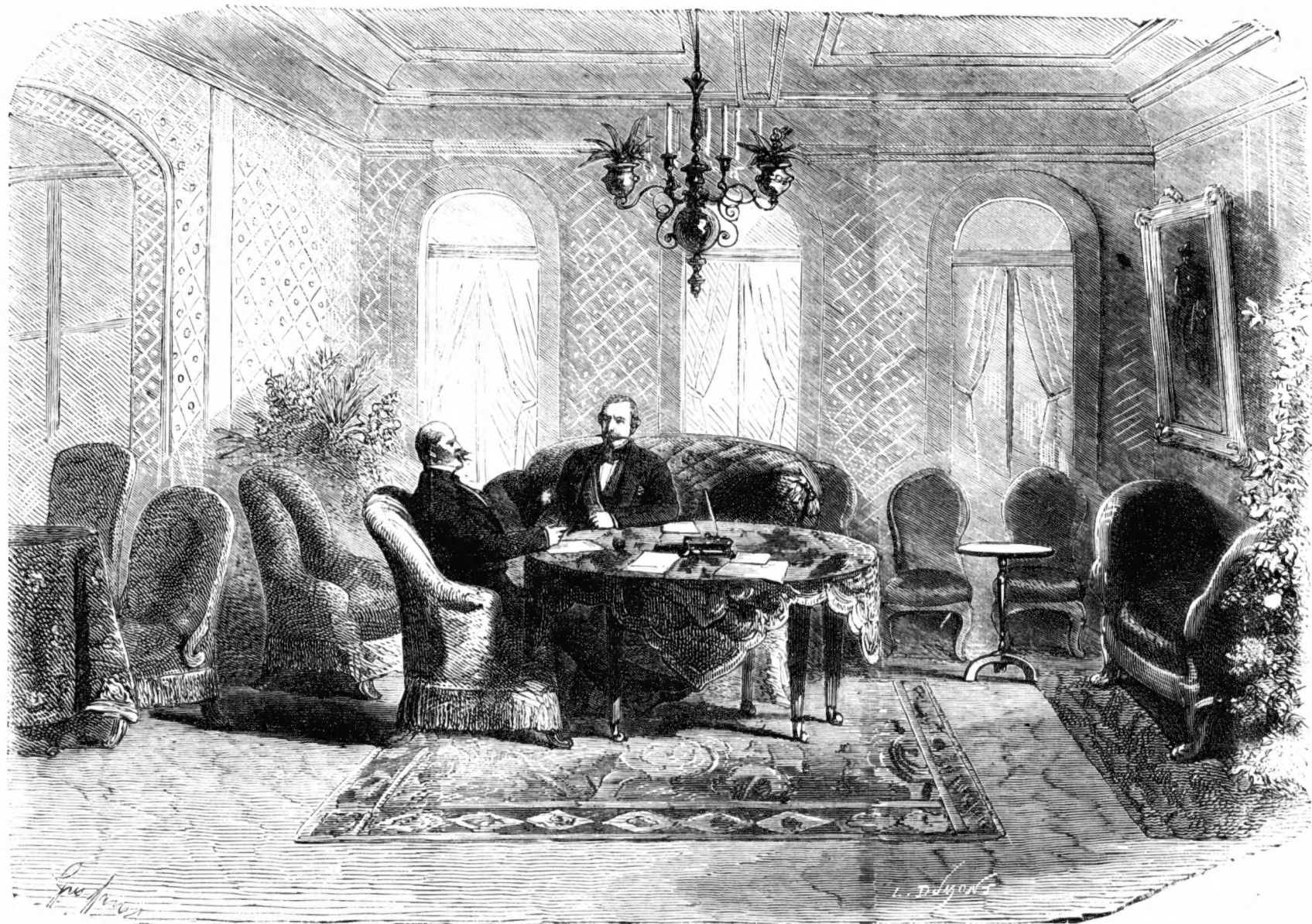
On the other hand, the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon, who has written a long letter on the subject of the Conference (he being there at the time), seems to have witnessed something very much like disrespect on the part of a large proportion of the assembly, and says very distinctly that "when the Emperor came forth from the hotel to his carriage the populace of Baden gave him unmistakable evidence of their feelings towards him."

BANQUET TO THE ORPHEONISTS.—The demonstrations connected with the visit of the Orpheonists to this country were brought to a successful termination at the Crystal Palace on Saturday. After the concert, which went off admirably, the Orpheonists were entertained to a farewell banquet. The expenses were defrayed by subscription, the list of subscribers including many of our best-known and most influential public men. The dinner itself was an excellent one, and was served and eaten without any disorder. Subsequently a series of toasts were proposed and responded to. They included the healths of the Sovereigns of the two countries, and the Anglo-French alliance. Speeches were delivered by Sir Joseph Paxton, who presided, Mr. Bright, M. Delaporte, and Mr. Locke, M.P., and the Orpheonists, together with their more phlegmatic allies, gave vent to the heartiest enthusiasm.

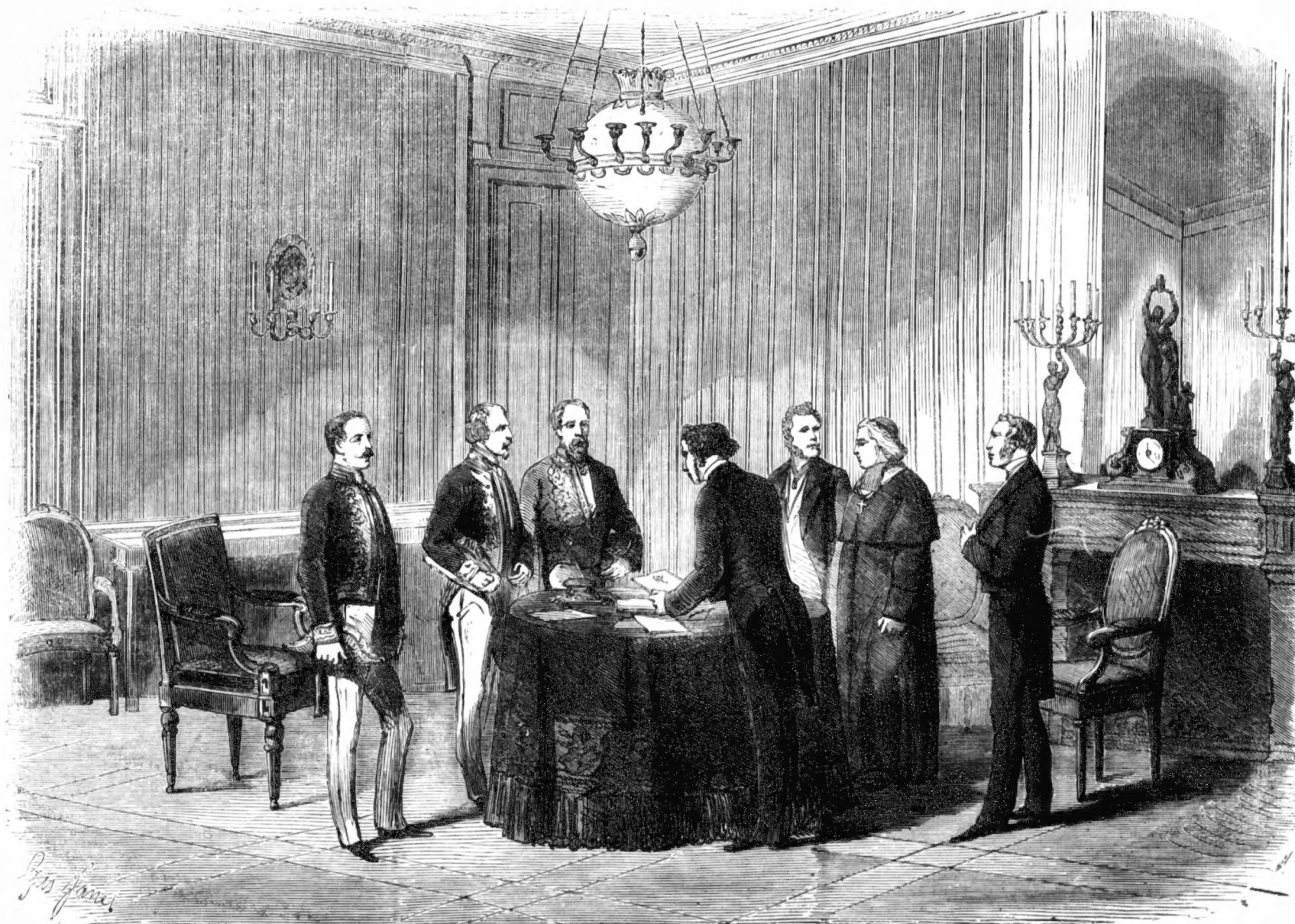
A DECISION OF SOME IMPORTANCE, musically speaking, has just been come to in Russia, the Emperor having ordered that the diapason of the French commission shall be adopted in the orchestras of the Imperial theatres from the 1st of September next. A sum of 45,000 francs has been awarded as an indemnity to the artists for changing the instruments according to this decision.



THE MEETING AT BADEN — THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON WALKING ON THE TERRACE OF THE VILLA STEPHANIE.



INTERVIEW BETWEEN THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON AND THE PRINCE REGENT OF PRUSSIA AT THE VILLA STEPHANIE, BADEN.



SIGNING THE TREATY OF ANNEXATION OF SAVOY AND NICE.

SIGNING THE DEED FOR THE CESSION OF SAVOY.
TO FRANCE.

At midday on the 14th of June a great firing of guns proclaimed some event of unusual interest at Chambéry. The French flag was waving over the town, and these repeated explosions announced the moment at which M. Bianchi de Castagnè, the Commissioner Extraordinary to the King of Sardinia, signed the act for the cession of Savoy, and presented it to M. Laity. This ceremony alone was wanting to complete the annexation, or, as the French newspapers call it, the reunion of Savoy to the empire of France.

We need scarcely remark that these same newspapers are jubilant in their language, and are already congratulating themselves, the people of Savoy, and the world in general, upon the happy consequences of this reunion, and prophesy a blissful experience now that France, like a good mother, has taken Savoy and Nice under her mantle.

Well, if the Savoyards are satisfied—and who dare doubt the integrity of the voting?—let the cannons roar, and the flags wave, and the parties concerned find occasion for another fête.

The business which concluded the annexation seems, after all, to have been a quiet affair enough; the representatives on each side had but to execute a matter of form, and met together for the purpose in an apartment of comparatively modest pretensions. Our Engraving represents M. Bianchi handing the required document to the French representative, M. Laity.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 137.

IRRUPTION OF THE GAULS.

We had a French invasion last week, or, as we might call it, an "irruption of Gauls;" but it was a very peaceable affair, although for the time it was exceedingly troublesome to the policemen and other officials on duty. The Orpheonists, after they had arrived in London, were not long in finding out the Houses of Parliament, and every morning they came down in large numbers. But on Wednesday, when they had no professional engagements, they invaded the buildings in swarms; and, as the policemen could not speak French and the Orpheonists could not understand English, it was with no small difficulty that they could be prevented from penetrating into the private rooms and offices. Arrangements were extemporised to allow them to see the public chambers both of the Lords and Commons. Fortunately for them, the Lords do not sit on Wednesday, and therefore they could wander in the Lords' House, library, corridors, and lobbies, as they liked, and gabble, and chatter, and express their wonder without let or hindrance; and gabble, and chatter, and gesticulate they did, as our readers can easily imagine. The Commons were sitting, and, therefore, within the precincts of the Lower House they were made to understand—not without difficulty though—that here more silence and decorum must be observed. But still they saw everything. The Strangers' Gallery they had all to themselves, and all the morning a constant succession of them streamed in and out. Nor were they prevented from entering the library, looking into the refreshment-rooms, and wandering along the committee corridors and on the river terrace. In short, they swarmed everywhere like locusts. It is affirmed that considerably more than a thousand passed through the building on Wednesday morning. What they thought of all they saw it is impossible to say; but, from what we heard and observed, we should judge that their ideas of the English Parliament were of a somewhat confined character, and that when they return to their homes in France they will not be able to give a very clear account of that institution. It was not uninteresting to us to watch the strangers. The characteristic which struck us most was their shortness of stature and lightness of limb as compared with Englishmen. Amongst the hundreds that passed by us we did not see a single tall man, and very few who were what we should call stalwart and strong. And we found it difficult to conceive that we had before us the materials of which the armies of France are made which have achieved such wonders in the world since the last century closed. Active, nimble, supple, they were, but in stature and strength of limb and thews they are certainly inferior to the working classes in this country. On Saturday we were at the Crystal Palace, and there our impressions were amply confirmed, for after the performance was over, and the Orpheonists mingled with the crowd, it was very observable that they were lower in stature on the average by an inch or two than the Englishmen who surrounded them, and very inferior in everything that is indicative of physical force. Active, supple, and ingenious in devices, no doubt, they are; but it is easy to see why, in close contact, in the dread face-to-face encounter, the French troops have rarely been able to withstand the terrible momentum of an English charge.

THE PLAGUE OF TONGUES.

In the year 1850 Carlyle thus wrote:—"In fact, there rises universally the complaint, and expression of surprise, that our reformed Parliament cannot get on with any kind of work, except that of talking, which does not serve much; and the chief Minister has been heard lamenting, in a pathetic manner, that the business of the nation (meaning thereby the voting of the supplies) was dreadfully obstructed, and that it would be difficult for him to accomplish the business of the nation, meaning the voting of the supplies, if honourable gentlemen would not please to hold their tongues a little." And again, "that a Parliament, especially a Parliament with newspaper reporters firmly established in it, is an entity which by its very nature cannot do work, but can do talk only." Well, we have to report that, if this was in a measure true ten years ago, it is entirely true now, and that this dreadful *canoethes loquendi*, this mania for talk, has spread amazingly since then, and continues to spread, and that even now business is almost impossible, and soon will be altogether, unless some stringent rules, some repressive and restrictive orders, be passed to compel the widespread flood of chatter, which threatens to submerge everything, into reasonable bounds. People outside, who merely read or glance over the debates in the morning papers, can get no adequate idea of this formidable evil; for the speeches which occupied an hour each in the deliverable are compressed into a few lines. But those who are always present are struck with the change which has come over the House within the last twenty years. Formerly the speakers in the House were few in number, and it was only the leading man who made long speeches. Indeed, the House would not tolerate long speeches from inferior men, but resolutely put them down *suo more*. Now, however, the House has become much more tolerant than it was, and, taking advantage of this tolerance, the speakers have rapidly increased in number. Speeches have now grown to such a length that, to pass a bill through the House, even though it be entirely unobjectionable, is a most difficult task; and, if this mania for talk continues to spread, will obviously, in a few years, be all but an impossibility. It used to be the custom seldom or never to debate a first reading; but now we often have long debates upon the first reading of bills. On the second reading, formerly, members used to discuss the principles of bills, and leave the examination of details to the Committees; but now not only is the principle of a bill frequently debated, but all its clauses are examined, on the second reading. Nor was it the practice to talk much upon the third reading; for when a bill had been through the ordeal of a discussion of the principle on the second reading and of the details in Committee, in most cases, the last stage was passed as a matter of course. But all this is changed; and such is the itching for talk that it breaks out at every stage, and not unfrequently the third reading of a bill of little importance is postponed, after an infinitude of talk has been wasted upon it, in order to give a still further opportunity to gabble. And, further, it is not unfrequently occurs that men talk upon subjects of which they are as ignorant as the dead. Of this take the following example:—The House was lately in Committee upon a bill, when an honourable member rose and called the attention of the promoter of the said bill to what he (the speaker) considered to be a grave omission; and upon this omission he proceeded to descant for twenty minutes or more. And, as talk always begets talk, when this man sat down up rose another, and then another; and at least three-quarters of an hour of time was spent in this way. Several times during the

debate the promoter of the bill tried to explain, but could not get a hearing. At length, when the talking had subsided, he rose and pointed out that if the gentlemen had just looked further on they would have seen that there was a clause supplying the very enactment which they required. And this is not an uncommon case. On the contrary, not a night passes but something like it occurs. In short, there are scores of men now in the House who, we verily believe, are always on the watch to indulge in this fatal propensity to talk. They will talk on every bill, whether they have read it or not. They will talk upon every question asked, if possible, whether they have thought of it before or not, or given it a moment's consideration; and if no opportunity occur they will make one, and "put themselves in order," as the phrase is, by moving the adjournment of the House. By-the-by, this frequent movement of the adjournment of the House for the purpose of introducing a topic of discussion is something new, and, we will venture to say, is entirely opposed to the spirit, if conformable to the letter, of the orders of the House. The late Speaker was very jealous of the frequent exercise of this questionable privilege, and more than once resolutely opposed it; but lately it has become very common, and we may be sure, like every other bad practice, will become more common. The theory is this:—By the rules of the House no member can introduce a topic of debate without notice, and if a notice of motion has been given it can only be brought on at the proper time. Well, a member wishes to introduce a motion, or rather discussion; but, as he has given no notice of motion, or, if he have, the time has not come to introduce it, to "put himself in order" he moves "That the House do now adjourn." He has not the slightest intention to press his motion. All he wants to do is to deliver a speech, and he merely makes the motion to "put himself in order." Now, there may be, and there are undoubtedly at times, emergencies when such a practice is justifiable; but it is obvious that if this practice become the rule, all legislative business may be at any time stopped. This, then, is the great evil of modern times—the raging mania for talk. How it is to be cured is a problem which at present is insoluble; but that it must be cured, or at all events mitigated, there can be no question, if our Parliamentary constitution is to be retained.

CARLYLE'S REMEDY.

The writer whom I have quoted above has given some advice upon this subject, which, though we despair of its being taken, we will print in hope. He says:—"Loving my life and time, which is the stuff of life, I read no Parliamentary debate—rarely any Parliamentary speech; but I am told there is not once in the seven years the smallest gleam of new intelligence thrown on any matter, earthly or divine, by an honourable gentleman on his legs in Parliament. Nothing offered you but wearisome, dreary, thrice-boiled colerwort; a bad article at first, and served and again served in newspapers and periodicals, and other literatures, till even the inferior animals recoil from it. Honourable gentlemen have complained to myself that under the sky there was not such a bore. What is or can be the use of this, your Lordship? Let an honourable gentleman who has colerwort or stump oratory of this kind send it to the *Times*; perhaps they will print it for him, and then all persons can read it there who hope for instruction from it. If the *Times* refuses to print it let the honourable gentleman print it at his own expense; let him advertise it at a penny the gross, distribute it gratis as a handbill, or even offer a small reward to any citizen that will read it; but if, after all, no body of citizens will read it even for a reward, then let the honourable gentleman retire into himself and consider what such omens mean! So much I take to be fair, or at least unavoidable, in a free country. Let every creature try to get his opinions listened to, and let honourable gentlemen who can print their own stump oratory, and offer a public reward for using it, by all means do so; but that, when no human being will incline or even consent to have their said oratory, they can get upon their legs in Parliament and pour it out still to the burdening of many newspapers, to the boring of their fellow-creatures, and generally to the despair of all thinking citizens in the community, this is and remains, I must crave to say, an infatuation, and, whatever respectable old coat you put upon it, is fast growing into a nuisance which must be abated." Hear! hear! hear!

IN OR OUT?

On our arrival at the House on Monday this was the question. It was confidently asserted that Gladstone was certainly out, and that Milner Gibson and Villiers would as certainly follow, and perhaps Lord John Russell. One young Conservative of an enthusiastic temperament offered to bet any money that the Chancellor had resigned—"he had heard it from A., who was told it by B., who had learned it from one of Gladstone's brothers, and there could be no doubt about it;" but the more experienced men shook their heads and still doubted. There was, however, a strong body of Conservatives at prayers, evidently brought down by the rumours that were afloat, and by the hope and expectation that something was up; and as the time wore on for the Ministers to make their appearance significant glances were directed towards the door. All doubts, however, were nearly dispelled before the Chancellor came in, for it had become known that the "news" which was said to have coaxed out of the Cabinet had really been floating about Pall-mall before the Cabinet had assembled. Lord Palmerston came in first, after him Lord John Russell, and at last Gladstone slipped into his place in his usual quiet manner and with just the same composed look that he generally wears upon his face. And when these three were seen chatting as usual upon the Treasury Bench the young enthusiastic Conservative above named must have been shaken in his confidence, and glad that nobody had taken his bet. But we are to have a fight, it seems, and a very earnest fight too, which may lead, not only to Gladstone's resignation, but to a general overturn and a dissolution. All this is clearly on the cards. The knowing ones about the House say that, whatever else may happen, we shall certainly have a dissolution before long. And we confess that we are inclined to fall in with the same opinion. Indeed, we do not see how it will be possible for Lord Palmerston to carry on with this obstructive Parliament. One report is that, if his Government shall survive the Session, he will, early in the spring, bring forward some testing measure, which will most likely be defeated, or carried by a narrow majority, and that he will then "throw himself upon the country;" while others affirm that he means to join issue with the Opposition on the privilege question, and, if defeated, at once dissolve. Meanwhile we must wait. We cannot, however, help suspecting that Time has really got something in that wallet of his which, when it comes out, will startle us.

STREET MUSICIANS.—Mr. Charles Babbage is renowned for his warfare against street musicians. The sound of a brazen instrument, even if it be a hundred yards off, brings him down like a Zouave. He has caused a band of Germans to be arrested and fined for playing in a neighbouring street. Mr. Secker thus laid down the law:—"He said that it was an offence against law to continue playing when they were told to leave by any one to whom their noisy instruments were an annoyance. There was, however, another offence committed by them, which was that of causing an obstruction. They had no right to occupy the thoroughfare so as to cause an obstruction, and they were liable to a punishment for doing so. No man has a right to put himself in a position to occupy the public highway, or to play his noisy instruments within the hearing of persons who are pursuing grave occupations. The street is not to be infested with persons who disturb the inhabitants. He should inflict a mitigated fine on each, but if they were again summoned he should inflict the full penalty of £2, to which each was liable."

MURDERS IN 1859.—The police returns state that as many as 95 murders were committed in England and Wales in the year ending at Michaelmas, 1859. In the complete year 1859 coroners' inquests found verdicts of murder in 204 cases (115 of them against women), but in very many instances, on further investigation, such cases range themselves under the head of manslaughter. Only 18 persons were convicted of murder in 1859, and 9 executed. A few other crimes besides murder are still capital; and sentence of death was recorded against 52 persons in 1859, though only the 9 above mentioned were executed. Only thirty years previously, in 1829, 1385 persons were sentenced to death, and 71 executed, 51 of them for crimes not now capital. Two of the murders in 1859 were committed by lunatics in the same month in which they were discharged from private lunatic asylums. 1240 cases of self-murder came before coroners in the year, all mercifully covered by the jury with a verdict of "fagacity."

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JUNE 29.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

ANCHORS.

A conversation took place between Lord HARDWICK and the Duke of SOMERSET on the relative merits of Trotman's and the Admiralty anchor, Lord Hardwicke advocating the superiority of the former, which, he observed, was only supplied to one ship in the Royal Navy—namely, her Majesty's yacht; and the Duke of Somerset the latter, as being more sure of gripping the ground and equal in holding to Trotman's anchor. Lord Hardwicke retorted that if such were the case the Admiralty would be much to blame if they did not substitute instantly the Admiralty anchor in the Royal yacht; but, as such was not the case, in his opinion it was the duty of the Admiralty to supply the Royal Navy with as good anchors as the Royal yacht.

The Duke of SOMERSET, in reply to Lord DUNGANNON, said that the Admiralty had nothing whatever to do with the appointment of the officers of the Holyhead and Kingston packets.

The Endowed Charities Bill, on the motion of the LORD CHANCELLOR, was read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

INDIAN CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir C. WOOD, adverting to the charge made by Mr. Horsman on the preceding night that he (Sir Charles) had suppressed certain papers relating to the local European force in India and then deprived the House of necessary information, declared that they had been laid upon the table of the House; that they had not been kept back by any act of his, direct or indirect; and that the charge was totally unfounded. With respect to another charge, of garbling papers, he stated that the extracts were made from private letters and confidential memoranda, passages in which (some of them calculated to give pain to individuals) he had thought were not proper to be published, and he had expunged them.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT.

Mr. JAMES inquired whether the Attorney-General meant to proceed with the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Bill? The SOLICITOR-GENERAL replied in the affirmative.

ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.

Mr. KERKEWICH called the attention of the Secretary of State for the Home Department to the disturbances which took place on the Sunday previous in the neighbourhood of the church of St. George-in-the-East, and asked what measures he had taken to prevent their recurrence?

Sir G. LKJIS said he had been assured that the account given in the newspapers was overcharged, and read reports from the police which were materially at variance with it. He detailed the measures taken to prevent disturbances in the church and its vicinity, no fewer than twenty-three of the police being constantly employed every Sunday for that purpose. The occurrences within the church were not of a nature cognisable by the police.

TROTMAN'S ANCHORS.

Mr. MILDMAI asked the Secretary to the Admiralty whether his attention had been called to a letter in the *Times* of the 25th, signed "John Trotman," stating that no Trotman's anchor had been supplied to the Navy, except the one used by the Royal yacht?

Lord C. PAGET, in reply, said he considered Trotman's anchor not a good one; that it had a great many disadvantages, there being great difficulty in fishing it. Still, he was not prepared to say that it ought not to be used, and the Admiralty desired to give it a fair chance. They had offered to order a trial of it on board two of her Majesty's ships, but Mr. Trotman had declined this offer; nothing would satisfy him but a Committee. With regard to the cost of Trotman's anchors, he stated that instead of being cheaper than the Admiralty anchors they were dearer.

GOSSIP.

The other subjects discussed included the case of a publican at Nottingham, fined for removing a soldier billeted upon him in a state of extreme sickness to the Union hospital; the denial of a site for a suitable house of worship to the Catholic inhabitants of Headford, in the county of Galway; the new harbour and works at Holyhead; the salubrity of Netley and the adjacent district, with reference to the position of the hospital; and the taking possession, by the Sheriff of the county of Leitrim, supported by a large armed force, of a Roman Catholic chapel in that county, for the Earl of Leitrim.

The last subject gave rise to a debate, in which other collateral topics were incidentally introduced.

The motion for adjournment was then agreed to, and the House went into Committee of Supply upon the Estimates for Mail Packet and Revenue Departments, when certain resolutions were agreed to, after a protracted discussion, and ordered to be reported.

The Registration of Births, &c. (Scotland), Bill passed the Committee. Other bills were put forward a stage, and, the remaining business having been disposed of, the House adjourned.

MONDAY, JULY 2.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN INDIA.

Several noble Lords appealed to the Duke of Marlborough not to bring on a motion in relation to religious education in India, which stood on the paper for that evening.

The Duke of MARLBOROUGH, however, persisted, and moved "that the British Government in India, as the representative of a Christian nation, is charged with the duty of promoting the moral as well as the social welfare of the people of that country; and that, in order effectually to further such objects, it is the opinion of this House that the authoritative exclusion of the Word of God from the course of education afforded in the Government colleges and schools ought, under suitable arrangements, to be removed; and humbly to address her Majesty that she will be graciously pleased to give directions for carrying the above object into effect." When he had concluded a lengthy speech,

Lord BROUGHAM moved the previous question, which was at once agreed to, and the subject dropped.

After the transaction of some business of no public importance, the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TAX BILLS.

Lord PALMERSTON gave notice that on Thursday he should call the attention of the House to the report of the Committee on Tax Bills, and propose a resolution thereon.

SUNDAY TRADING.

Lord R. MONTAGU said, in answer to Mr. Horsfall, that he intended to withdraw the Sunday Trading Bill.

THE SAVOY QUESTION.

Lord J. RUSSELL said, in answer to Sir R. Peel, that the Government, in answer to M. Thouvenel's despatch, had accepted the offer of a conference with reference to the annexation of Savoy and the neutralisation of the Swiss provinces; and the Russian Government had also signified its assent to that course.

OUR ARMY IN INDIA.

The adjourned debate on the European Forces India Bill was resumed by Mr. RICH, who opposed any change in the system of a local European force in India.

Mr. TORRENS expressed a similar opinion.

Sir D. L. EVANS stated his belief that it was not intended to produce any papers which would afford information on the subject of the bill until after the question involved was decided by the House. From the portion of the papers recently produced the question wore, in many respects, quite another aspect, especially with reference to the opinions of Lord Clyde and Sir William Mansfield, and the insubordination of the local troops, who, he thought, had experienced hard measure. They had been imbued with the conviction that justice was on their side. The alleged foundation for this legislative measure was the bad conduct of these troops; but the papers hitherto furnished did not bear out the plea. The House had been led to believe that the whole of the local force had disappeared, and that, if continued, it must be re-created; but the remaining local troops numbered 17,000, and, in his opinion, so large a European army as 80,000 men was not required in India—that 60,000 or 60,000 would be sufficient. A most important point was the constitutional question—the Horse Guards question. He had no doubt that the prospect of a large amount of the military patronage had something to do with the change that had come over the Government. In conclusion, he observed that, if the measure itself were unobjectionable, the manner in which it had been introduced would justify the House in rejecting it. He moved that the debate be adjourned.

Mr. M. MILNES seconded the motion, urging that a measure like this should have been preceded by a committee of inquiry; and also that the debate should not be proceeded with till the House was in possession of the recorded opinions of the Indian Council. He argued unreservedly against abolishing the local force.

Colonel DUNN spoke in a similar sense. Mr. AYLTON defended the course pursued by the Secretary for India with reference to this measure, which he said had been characterised by caution

and discretion, and argued in favour of the proposed change, which was justified by the failure of the local army, as evidenced by the mutinies which had taken place in both the native and European forces.

Mr. DANBY SKYMOUR argued against the bill, and urged delay in coming to a decision upon it.

Mr. GREGGON, Sir F. Smith, Colonel Sykes, Major Parker, and Colonel North having spoken,

Sir C. WOOD replied to the general arguments which had been brought forward, justifying the change which had taken place in his opinion on the ground that the events which had occurred since last year were sufficient to have influenced his mind, as they had the minds of Lord Clyde, Sir Patrick Grant, and Sir W. Mansfield. Having come to this opinion reluctantly, and after careful and long deliberation, he had heard nothing in the course of the debate, however ably urged, to shake the decision to which he had come. He then gave a sketch of the circumstances which led to the present proposal for abolishing the local European force in India, and concluded by asking the House not to delay the measure by motions for adjournment, but to come to a division that evening.

The motion for the adjournment of the debate having been negatived, a division took place on the second reading, when the numbers were:—

For the second reading	282
Against it	53—229

THE POOR LAWS.—THE MILITIA.

The Poor-law Board Continuance Bill was read a second time, after some discussion, in which a strong opinion was expressed by many members that the period for the continuance of the board should be one year only.

The Militia Bill was read a second time.

The other business was disposed of, and the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, JULY 5.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MASTERS AND WORKMEN.

Lord ST. LEONARDS moved the second reading of the Masters and Operatives Bill, the object of which is to establish councils of conciliation for the adjustment of differences between employers and workmen.

Lord RAVENSWORTH moved the rejection of the bill.

After some discussion it was arranged, on the suggestion of Earl GRANVILLE, that the bill should be read a second time on the understanding that it was to be referred to a Select Committee.

LAND IN NEW ZEALAND.—TITHE COMMUTATION.

The New Zealand Bill, the object of which is to establish a native council under the authority of the Government, to whom all questions relating to the transfer of land should be referred, and the Tithe Commutation Bill, were read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ARMY PAY.

Colonel LINDSAY moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the claims of seven Majors-General to the pay of General officers, who are now receiving only the half-pay of Brevet Majors, and who accepted substantive rank upon half-pay upon the terms and engagements contained in the Horse Guards Memorandum of March, 1826, and General Order of April, 1826. As two great authorities differed regarding the claims of these officers—the late Secretary for War having been of opinion that they had sound claims, and the present Secretary being of a different opinion—it was only fair, he thought, that a Committee should be appointed to investigate the question. The motion was seconded by Colonel NORTH, and supported by General BUCKLEY.

Mr. S. HERBERT said, upon carefully examining the question, he had come to the conclusion that the claim was not a sound one. There had been a bargain, while the officers had thought a good one, and he had therefore declined to accede to the claim. He opposed the motion, not thinking the House of Commons a proper tribunal to decide a question of this kind.

General PEEL said, having acted in this matter with as little bias as Mr. HERBERT, he had no doubt whatever of the soundness of the claims of these officers, and he thought the Committee ought to be granted.

The motion was supported by Colonel SYKES and Colonel DUNNE, and was carried upon a division by 108 to 91.

THE APPOINTMENT OF NAVAL CADETS.

Mr. ESMONDE moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the present system of nomination to cadetships in the Royal Navy.

Lord C. PAGET said he had not heard that any complaint was made against the Admiralty for the mode in which cadets were appointed to the Navy. He was in favour of a limited system of competition for cadetships, but it was found that an examination of boys of twelve years was hardly a test of their fitness for the service. A system of competition for cadetships in the Marines, who were generally older than the naval cadets, had been established, and if it should be found to answer, it might be extended to the Navy. Three-fourths of the nominations for cadetships were given to the sons of naval officers as a reward for the services of their fathers.

Mr. LINDSAY, in reference to the mode in which the Admiralty exercised their patronage of naval cadetships, said he had made two applications on public grounds for an appointment for a son of the distinguished General Neill.

Mr. WHITEHEAD said that the only ground which the mover of the Committee went on was that he wanted to know how the nominations were made; but no complaint was made against the system, or of its being abused.

After a brief discussion, on a division the motion was rejected by 81 to 24.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CHURCH-RATES AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. HUBBARD stated that he attached the greatest possible importance to this bill, but seeing it would meet with considerable opposition, and that he could not hope to see it carried unless he met with the cordial support of the House, he moved that it be discharged from the paper.

Mr. D. GRIFFITH, while he fully appreciated the course taken by the hon. member, regretted to see it dealt with in this manner. He thought a moderate measure of this kind, avoiding extremes, would have been acquiesced in by the other House of Parliament, and would have been the means of settling the matter, which had now been in dispute for so many years.

The order was then discharged.

The Highway Bill was discussed, amongst other business.

THURSDAY, JULY 5.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

AFFAIRS IN SICILY.

The Marquis of NORMANBY asked a question relative to a statement which had appeared in the official *Gazette* of Palermo to the effect that an accredited officer was about to be sent from that place to this country. He desired now to ascertain whether the Government had received any information on this subject.

Lord WODEHOUSE said he had received no other information on this subject than that to which the noble Lord had referred, which he had seen. He would take this opportunity of adding that despatches had been received from Mr. Elliot, who it had been alleged, on a former occasion had interfered in the seizure of two of Garibaldi's steam vessels. The despatches informed the Government that the statement was utterly unfounded, as he had in no way taken part in the matter.

Lord BROUGHAM said he would say nothing about adventurers and that sort of thing, but he thought Garibaldi fit to rank with any other of the potentates of the world. He believed that nine hundred and ninety-nine men out of every thousand heartily wished Garibaldi success in his difficult undertaking.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH said he had no doubt that the Minister referred to would be received here. He thought that the Minister could not find a better man to represent than Garibaldi.

The Marquis of NORMANBY wished that noble Lords would make themselves well acquainted with the facts, which showed that great atrocities had been committed during the disturbances. Not only members of the police had been murdered, but also women. One woman was said to have been burned alive. These atrocities were alleged to have been committed by both parties; but no doubt these reports were exaggerated in both cases.

Lord WODEHOUSE stated that the information received officially by the Government represented Garibaldi as a most humane man, and as being in every way desirous of preventing the recurrence of any such atrocities as those referred to.

Several bills were advanced a stage. Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CHINESE WAR.

Sir H. WILLOUGHBY gave notice of his intention to move a resolution asserting that the supplemental estimates of the expenses of the Chinese War were unsatisfactory and extravagant.

SINCE.

Lord J. RUSSELL, in reply to Colonel Stuart, said her Majesty's Government had made strong remonstrances against the repetition at Messina

or Naples of such atrocities as had been committed at Palermo; and he had every reason to hope that those remonstrances would not be without effect.

THE ISLAND OF SAN JUAN.

Lord J. RUSSELL, in reply to Mr. W. Williams, said her Majesty's Government had received assurances from the Government of the United States that General Harney should be recalled from the Governorship of San Juan.

THE PRIVILEGE QUESTION AND THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

A great number of petitions having been presented praying the House to maintain its right of dealing exclusively with measures of taxation unimpaired,

Lord FERMONT, on behalf of the Independent Liberal members, urged Mr. T. Duncombe not to press the resolution of which he had given notice as an amendment upon the resolutions of the First Minister of the Crown, but to reserve to himself the right of bringing it forward as a substantive proposition.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE said that, seeing no hope of obtaining the support of the Liberal party, he had no alternative but to withdraw his resolution.

Lord PALMERSTON then rose in a crowded House to submit the following resolutions, of which he had given notice:—

"1. That the right of granting aids and supplies to the Crown is in the Commons alone, as an essential part of their constitution, and the limitation of all such grants as to the matter, manner, measure, and time, is only in them."

"2. That, although the Lords have exercised the power of rejecting bills of several descriptions relating to taxation by negativing the whole, yet the exercise of that power by them has not been frequent, and is justly regarded by this House with peculiar jealousy, as affecting the right of the Commons to grant the supplies, and to provide the ways and means for the service of the year."

"3. That to guard for the future against an undue exercise of that power by the Lords, and to secure to the Commons their rightful control over taxation and supply, this House has in its own hands the power so to impose and remit taxes, and to frame bills of supply, that the right of the Commons as to the matter, manner, measure, and time, may be maintained inviolate."

The noble Lord said he rose to address the House on a matter of the greatest importance, not only to the House itself but to the country at large. There could be nothing of greater importance to the country than what related to the rights and privileges of the House of Commons, as well as their ancient practices and constitutional powers. Having commented on the important character of the report drawn up in reference to the precedents of the Houses of Parliament, and eulogised the officers of the House as well as the right hon. gentleman the member for Cambridge (Mr. Walpole), for the assistance they had received in the preparation of the report, the noble Lord referred to the different occasions on which, since 1611, the Lords had thrown out bills relating to taxation. These rejections amounted to thirty-six in number, and they generally involved questions of political opinion, and were not of a very serious character. He admitted that any attempt at aggression on the constitutional privileges of the House by the Upper House would be most dangerous, and a step that would call for the vigorous assertion of the rights of hon. members. He admitted, also, that there was a difference between the bill for the repeal of the duty on paper and the other bills which had been rejected by the House of Lords. However, unless they advocated revolution they must proceed with great deliberation, and avoid conflicts with the other branch of the Legislature; and in the present instance they must consider if there were not grounds for the course which the Upper House had adopted. There was nothing in what had occurred in the Upper House to cause a conflict between the two Houses, and he adjured honourable members not to adopt any course that would bring them into conflict with the House of Lords. He drew attention to the fact that the House of Lords had the right of veto in bills; and therefore, if they could not exercise their dissent, that power would be a nullity, and the functions of one branch of the Legislature would to all intents and purposes be suspended. The noble Lord having cited a celebrated constitutional authority in support of his views, contended that the political and constitutional powers of the House of Commons had largely increased of late years, and there was no apprehension, if any infringement or invasion of its privileges took place, that that House would vindicate them in the most emphatic and effective manner. The noble Lord concluded in a very energetic appeal by urging the arguments he had already used, and resumed his seat amid loud cheers from the Opposition side of the House.

Mr. COLLIER said that as it appeared to be the feeling of his hon. friends around him that it was desirable they should come to a unanimous vote upon the subject, it was not his intention to propose the amendment of which he had given notice.

Mr. CONINGHAM protested against putting such an absurd resolution as that proposed on the records of that House, and, if the question went to a division, he should certainly vote against it.

Mr. V. SCULLY thought the course they were taking was weak and contemptible; and he advised them to send up the Paper Duty Repeal Bill again to the House of Lords, backed by such a majority and such an expression of feeling as would convince that House of their determination to vindicate their own exclusive rights and privileges.

Mr. LEATHAM also urged active measures upon the subject.

Mr. B. OSBORNE said it was the imperative duty of hon. members to maintain the honour and dignity of that House. The constituents would hold them responsible if they did not do so.

Mr. E. JAMES thought it was the bounden duty of the Government, irrespective of all party politics, to uphold the rights and privileges of that House. All former Governments had done so; but he looked upon the present motion as a poor and paltry compromise.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER defended the course the Government had taken. The resolutions did all that language could do to defend the honour of that House; but he was prepared to go further, and to reserve to himself the right of acting. He denied that the cases of precedent quoted had touched in the slightest degree the question under consideration, for there was not one of them that could be properly called a precedent. There was a great difference between the House of Lords advising an alteration in a money bill and rejecting the repeal of a tax. The right hon. gentleman concluded by stating that that House had the undoubted right to select the manner in which they should be taxed, and they were bound to maintain intact that precious deposit. They had it in their power to maintain it; and he reserved to himself the privilege of submitting such practical measures as would give effect to the resolutions.

Mr. WHITEHEAD defended the course pursued by the House of Lords, and contended that they had the undoubted right of altering, amending, or rejecting any money bill sent up to them. After paying a high compliment to Lord Palmerston, he censured the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the revolutionary tendency of his speech. He called upon the House to avoid anything like an attack upon one of the noblest branches of our Constitution, and by every means in their power to discourage the spirit of revolution in that House.

Lord FERMONT expressed his satisfaction with the sentiments expressed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and declared that he was ready to support that right hon. gentleman, in or out of office, in any course he should deem it advisable to adopt to give practical effect to the principles laid down in the resolutions, and to maintain the dignity and independence of the House of Commons.

Mrs. DILLWYN, Sir J. Trelawny, Mr. Ricardo, Sir C. Douglas, Mr. Dutt, Sir J. Shelley, and Mr. Stansfeld severally addressed the House in a similar spirit, some of them commenting upon the silence observed by the members on the Conservative side of the House.

Mr. DISRAELI, in answer to the appeal that had been made to the Opposition, said he rejoiced that he was the first who had the privilege of offering to the noble Lord whose general policy he opposed the sincere tribute of admiration on this occasion. If the rights of the House of Commons had been attacked, the noble Lord would not appeal to the Conservatives in vain to support him in maintaining their interest. But he had stated that what the Lords had done was not only justified by law, but also sanctioned by policy and wisdom; and he would ask that House whether, under those circumstances, they could be called upon to say that their privileges had been violated by the other House? The right hon. gentleman then proceeded at considerable length to answer the objections made by members on the other side of the House against the course taken by the House of Lords upon the paper duty repeal question. He concurred in the resolutions of the noble Lord, and contended that the House of Lords were fully entitled to a voice in the taxation of the country. If such a right were denied them, what would be their position if a new House of Commons were to pass a bill heavily taxing their estates? Surely it never could be contended that they had no power to help themselves under such circumstances. He trusted that the House would support her Majesty's Government in maintaining those institutions under which the country had flourished and had become great and powerful.

Lord J. RUSSELL thanked the right hon. gentleman for his speech in favour of his noble friend's resolutions, but he regretted that his support appeared to be influenced by motives very different from those which actuated hon. members on the Ministerial side of the House. His noble friend had not said that the House of Lords were justified by a wise policy in rejecting the bill, but that they believed they were justified by policy in doing so. He proceeded to contend that the resolutions bore a very different construction than that which the right hon. gentleman had put upon them. He concurred in the sentiments expressed by his noble friend at the head of the Government; and he for one should deeply regret that anything were done by that House which would have the effect, even in the slightest

degree, to weaken or impair the efficiency of that great branch of the Constitution, the House of Lords.

On the motion of Mr. DIGNY SKYMOUR, the debate was then adjourned until the following (Friday) evening.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TAX BILLS.

The report of the Select Committee on Tax Bills has been published.

The Committee have searched for precedents in the journals from the year 1628 to the present time, in order that they might ascertain and report on the practice pursued by either House with regard to the several descriptions of bills imposing and repealing taxes. The practice and the mode of procedure is somewhat different according to the character and object of those bills. The Committee have, therefore, for the sake of clearness, classified the same chiefly under one or the other of the following heads:—

1. Bills of supply and tax bills.
2. Bills for appropriating supplies.
3. Public bills which are not strictly bills of supply or tax bills, but which operate as a tax or charge on the people; and
4. Bills for altering or repealing acts which relate to supply, taxes, or charges.

The Committee have thought it necessary to call the attention of the House to those cases only in which the Lords have interfered.

In the first line of the first section—relating to bills of supply and tax bills—the Committee state "the fundamental rule" to be that "the Commons grant, the Lords assent." It illustrates this principle by the great examples of 1407 and 1628, and by the usage of the House of Commons, as exemplified in the preambles of money bills, and in their return from the Upper House for presentation to the Sovereign by the Speaker. It shows that when the Lords have attempted amendments to bills of this nature, the Commons have assented only in cases where the amendment was immaterial. It justifies the limitation of research to the year 1628 by the fact that the usage of Parliament was virtually settled at that period, and that earlier precedents are abundantly exhibited in the reasons urged by the Commons in their conferences of 1671. In those conferences it was expressly laid down that the "matter, measure, and time" of any tax or imposition are all and entirely under the control of the Commons. The report shows, under the same head, that so jealous were the Commons over these privileges that they disallowed amendments which effected only an abatement in the amount, or an alteration in the mode of collecting, the tax voted. In April, 1700, they disallowed amendments to the Land-tax and Irish Forfeiture Bill, though those amendments did not relate to aid and supply, resolving that "as all aids and supplies begin with the Commons, so it is the undoubted and sole right of the Commons to direct, limit, and appoint in such bills the ends and purposes, considerations, limitations, and qualifications of such grants, which ought not to be changed or altered by your Lordships." It was further resolved that "this is well known to be such a fundamental right of the Commons that to give reasons for it has been esteemed by our ancestors to be a weakening of that right." Under the second head of inquiry there is nothing to report, the Lords having invariably assented to "bills for the appropriation of supply." But in the third class of cases—that of "public bills which are not strictly bills of supply or tax bills, but which operate as a tax or charge upon the people"—the report presents some curious instances of the zealous guardianship the Commons exercised over what they describe in one resolution as their "undoubted right to appoint pecuniary mulcts and their distribution." They would not suffer the Lords to originate a bill or insert a clause imposing bridge-tolls or levying rates or fines for divers police offences. Of late years they have relaxed their usages in this respect. They were careful to assert their ancient "undoubted privileges" in the resolutions which so lately as 1831 and 1849 they added to the standing orders, permitting the Lords to propose or alter charges so strictly local and exceptional that they could not be construed into a tax on the people or a supply to the Crown.

Lastly, the report deals with "bills for altering and repealing Acts which relate to supplies, taxes, or charges." On this class of bills the Committee observe that they ought to originate in the Commons, and that they are not allowed to be amended. It appears, however, that in 1714 the Lords rejected a bill for relieving merchants from part of the duties due on tobacco and wine; and that in the next year the same bill was sent up again and was again rejected. In 1767 a bill to allow free importation of—that is, to suspend or repeal the duties upon—salted meat and butter was postponed to a day after the prorogation. In 1781 a bill for reducing the duties on salt used for manure was, in like manner, defeated by postponement. There are several other precedents which go to a similar extent. The most important, however, is a resolution of the whole House repealing the existing coal duties and granting other duties in lieu thereof. The loss of this bill occurred in 1808.

In concluding this report the Committee refrain from offering any opinion and from making any comments upon that practice, except to illustrate and explain; and they have abstained from any statement of the practice of each House, "except in so far as such practice appears from the entries in the journals."

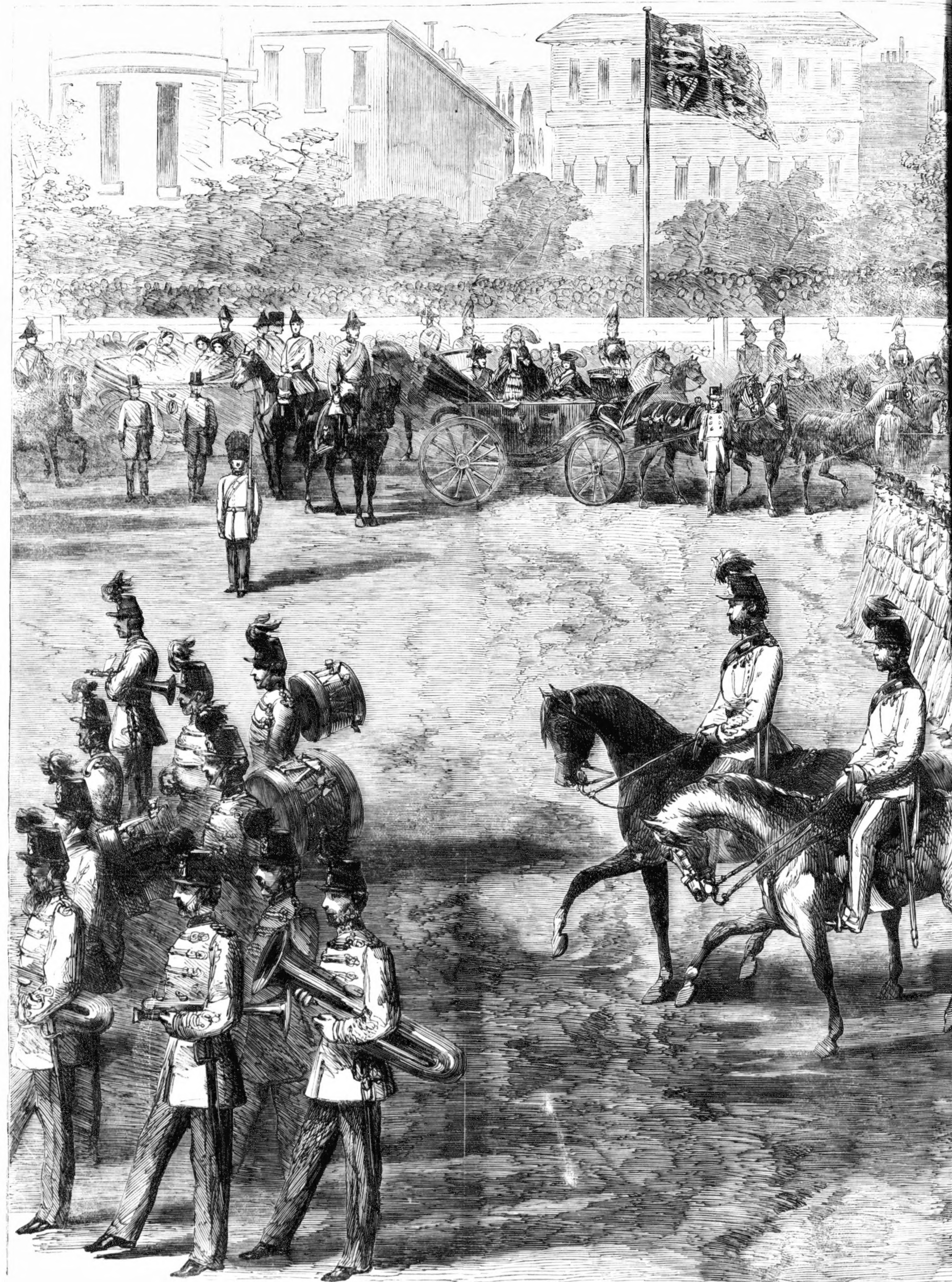
The draft report by Mr. Bright is nearly as long as that of the Committee. The following paragraphs, with which it concludes, would have been added to Mr. Walpole's report but for the casting vote of Sir James Graham:—

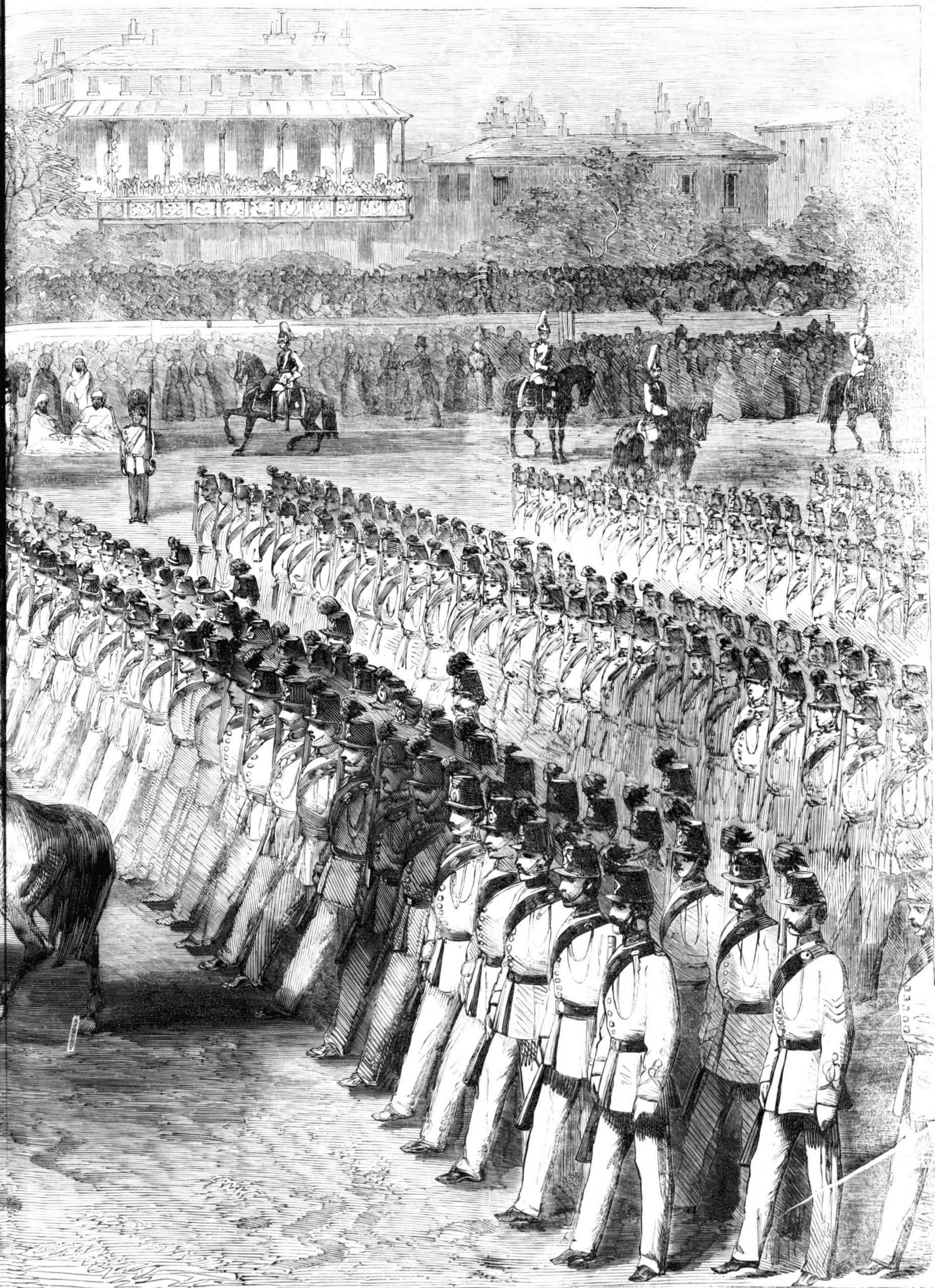
"The Committee, reviewing this testimony, derived from the records of Parliament and from the settled practice of the House of Commons, have asked themselves this question:—What is the principle involved in the precedent of the 9th of Henry VII., and what the right of the Commons of England, which, Mr. Pym declared, in the year 1640, had been 'not shaken by one precedent for these three hundred years?' Is it merely that the House of Commons shall begin all bills of taxation and supply; or that the Lords shall not, by amendment in any bill, raise or diminish by one penny any charge imposed on the people? Is it one or both of these things only which formed the staple of the right for which the Commons have contended during so many centuries? The Committee cannot doubt that the right which the Commons have contended for and have maintained is nothing less than an absolute control in determining the expenditure necessary for the service of the Crown, and the mode and the amount of the taxation which shall be imposed upon the people. If the Lords cannot begin a tax—if they cannot increase or abate a tax—yet if they may prolong a tax by refusing their assent to its repeal when that repeal has been voted by the House of Commons, then it appears to the Committee that the 'fundamental and inherent right' of the House of Commons to an absolute control over taxation and supply is not only menaced, but destroyed."

"The Committee cannot conclude their report without reminding the House that, if henceforth—which they will not believe to be possible—no tax, hurtful to trade and grievous to the people, can be remitted unless the Lords be pleased to remit it, or can be even recommended by the Crown to be considered by the Commons with a view to its remission, with that full assurance which has heretofore existed that such a tax will be remitted. Not only will the powers of the House of Commons be impaired but the foundation of the ancient freedom of England will be undermined; for where shall that ancient freedom be found when the right to determine the mode and the sum of taxation is divorced from the representative branch of the Legislature?"

CONSERVATIVE BANQUET.

The first anniversary festival of this association, established in connection with the Conservative Land Society, was celebrated by a public dinner at Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's, the Earl of Shrewsbury, C.B., presiding, supported by Sir J. Pakington, Lord John Manners, the Earl of Darnley, Mr. Whiteside, General Peel, and sixty or seventy other members of Parliament. In all three hundred gentlemen were present. The chief speakers were Lord John Manners, Sir Stafford Northcote, General Peel, and Sir John Pakington.





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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JULY 7, 1860.

THE CHINESE DIFFICULTY.

We have been so much occupied, lately—with treaties of doubtful advantage, with bottomless measures of Reform, in watching the progress of Italian liberty, and in guarding against any attempt upon our own—that we have quite overlooked a matter usually considered of much importance to a nation—that we are virtually at war. Now and then, indeed, during the discussion of the Budget, the expedition to China turned up; but, as everybody agreed that the expedition was unavoidable, nobody questioned the expense. And, besides, there was still some lingering hope that the Chinese Emperor would apologise, make good the damages, and so end pleasantly a most unpleasant business. But the Chinese Emperor is misadvised, it seems. He cannot apologise; he will not hear of indemnity; and nothing is left but to recommence a contest from which we can hope for little profit and less honour. There is no credit in smashing Chinese forts or thrashing Chinese armies; while the climate, the extent of country to be operated upon, and the smallness of the force engaged, render the work very laborious; especially as scarcely a cheer reaches fleet or army from home. The country does not feel that the honour of its arms is involved in the war, and past experiences make us very doubtful whether it will leave any solid advantage. However, proceed with it we must. It has been long ago settled that the Peiho business cannot be winked at; that the Chinese must either make atonement and apology for the treacherous part they played in it, or receive due punishment; and thus, while we have been so hotly discussing our Reform Bills, and our paper taxes, and our Parliamentary privileges, the war has gradually come to a head. The expedition has arrived. Our army has dispossessed the proprietors of the island of Chusan, to begin with, and is getting itself in order for more belligerent operations; and, to bring the matter more nearly home to us, we have this week seen the publication of two documents—one containing the terms under which France and England agree to carry on the war, and the other setting forth what it is likely to cost us.

Of the first document we have nothing to say, except that there is something odd in the spectacle of two nations arrayed so jealously against each other as France and England are at this moment sitting down to arrange the details of a raid upon a third country, of which neither is jealous and neither afraid. But the Estimate is serious. Beyond the ordinary, or rather extraordinary, grants for army and navy services this year, the country is now asked for a sum little short of four millions to defray the expenses of belligerent operations in China. This sum provides for the repayment of something like half a million advanced by the Government of India for former expeditions, so that the operation in which our Admirals and Generals are now engaged in the Celestial territory is to cost three millions four hundred thousand pounds.

Now, we are not accustomed to regard this as an enormous sum when inscribed in the national ledger, but in the present overburdened condition of our finances it is a serious amount, and will be felt in an increase of taxation which the country already bears uneasily. But, spite of our misgivings as to the wisdom of those who dispend the money, we pay the augmented income tax with some degree of cheerfulness, since by this sacrifice we gain a definite good. We are secure from invasion; we have (or shall have) fleets and forts to show for the expense. But these three millions, with many brave men to boot, are to be thrown into the yellow waters of China simply because its rulers are treacherous and dishonest. Surely that is very hard. And when the war is over, when the three millions are expended, and the lives of some hundreds of our soldiers and seamen sacrificed, how much better shall we stand in China than at present? Judging from the results of previous campaigns, absolutely no better.

Now, such a result must be avoided this time. We have already spent too much blood and treasure in being bamboozled by a people whose whole political system appears to be founded on subterfuge and false dealing. If the Chinese war is to be again begun, let us go through with it, and finish it; leaving no doubt upon the Celestial mind that treaties must be observed, and that advantages gained by chicanery are in danger of being lost by the sword. The cost of the war will not be grudged in England if it result in a definite settlement of our relations with China—in finally securing those advantages of free transit which we too hastily supposed were already our own; but we must not be asked for more and more money for new disappointments, and for the perpetuation of political defeat.

THE ARMSTRONG GUN.—In order to substantiate the extreme strength claimed for the Armstrong gun under the highest possible charge of powder and shot, one of the 12-pounder guns recently turned out in the Woolwich factory was on Tuesday submitted to trial. The gun was loaded and fired with every ounce of powder which the chamber was capable of containing, to which was added a long cylinder or bar of solid iron, equivalent to five ordinary shots. This charge was repeated and fired in a dozen rounds, and, after a careful searching of the interior, and the application of the ordinary means to test the solidity of the metal, the firing was continued, with the charge as above stated, up to the fiftieth round, when the firing was ordered to cease, and the gun, having been again examined and subjected to ample scrutiny, was pronounced incapable of being hurt or damaged under ordinary usage.—In addition to the stipulated number of 12-pounder guns already completed in the Woolwich factory, 113 of larger dimensions (25-pounders) intended for service in the new class of gun-boats, have also been completed.—Three 12-pounder guns, on Mr. Whitworth's principle, are also in a forward state of construction, and are intended to be employed at the forthcoming competition at Shoeburyness.

CHINA (VOTE OF CREDIT).—An estimate has been issued of the sum required to be voted towards defraying the expenses of naval and military operations in China, beyond the ordinary grants for Army and Navy services, for the year 1860-61; including a repayment of £443,896 to the Government of India for advances on account of former expeditions to China. The sum in question is £3,801,000.

SAVINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY AND THE ROYAL FAMILY left Buckingham Palace on Thursday, for Osborne.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE was seized with an attack of gout immediately after the review at Aldershot.

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS, the uncle of her Majesty, took leave on Saturday, and departed for Ostend.

THE DUCHESS OF MACKLEBURG-STRELITZ, who has just arrived from Germany on a visit to her Majesty, discovered, on her arrival at Buckingham Palace, that she had been robbed of her jewel-case, valued at £3000.

A GOLD-MINE has been opened in Merionethshire. The first blast brought away a large mass of quartz, said to contain a considerable quantity of the auriferous metal.

THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION of the body of Prince Jerome led to the discovery of a ball which had remained in his chest after a duel which he fought in his youth with a brother of Marshal Davoust. The deceased Prince, it is stated, has left memoirs, and in his will prescribed all the measures which are to be adopted for their publication.

A BATTERY of Sir William Armstrong's guns (12-pounders), with carriages, has arrived at Leith Fort. The appearance of the new guns excited considerable curiosity.

A FARMER residing in the neighbourhood of Kendal took to market last week, amongst the other produce of his flock, 17lb. of fine wool, obtained from a single tup, which he had disposed of at 1s. 6d. per lb. Not very many years since the best sheep in Kendal market might have been purchased for about the same sum of money as was paid for this fleece.

A CONVERSATION of the Society for Promoting the Employment of W. men, in connection with the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, was held at 19, Latham-place, on the evening of Friday, June 29. Lord Shaftesbury took the chair.

THE DECLINE OF PAUPERISM in England, as compared with last year, continues. In April the number of paupers relieved was less than in April, 1859, by above two per cent.; in May the decline, as compared with May, 1859, was nearer three per cent. than two. The decline is still most considerable in the cotton districts.

A BERLIN PAPER affirms that the chateau of Rosenhofen, the summer residence of the King of Bavaria, is being prepared for the reception of Francis II., in case he should find it necessary to make a precipitate retreat from Naples.

MARTIN ESCALANTE, a British subject, has returned to Gibraltar after thirteen months' imprisonment in Cadix. In May of last year he was sentenced by the Judge of Chinchilla to nine years' penal servitude, for attempting to change the religion of Spain by distributing copies of the New Testament.

ACCORDING TO RECENT ACCOUNTS FROM INDIA, Miss Wheeler is not alive. A spy traced the whole circumstances, and discovered that she had been brutally murdered, and that her captor had fallen in the Bootwall engagement.

COUNT DANN, one of the very few Hungarians who have ranged themselves on the side of absolutism, has just shot himself at Viterbo. He was there organising a regiment of cavalry out of Austrian soldiers who had been discharged or sent there.

THE FACSIMILE OF A JAPANESE WORK ON BOTANY, with interlinear translation and notes, has been brought out by Messrs. Lippincott and Co., of Philadelphia.

A TRANSLATION of Mr. BUCKLE'S "Introduction to the History of Civilisation in England," by Dr. Arnold Ruge, has been published at Leipzig.

LADY MACLAINE, wife of General Sir Archibald MacLaine, K.C.B., has presented the Prince Imperial with a handsome cushion, worked by her own hands, and emblazoned with the Imperial arms. The present has been graciously accepted.

THE FIRST CONTRACT for the execution of a portion of the new bronze coinage has just been taken by James Watt and Co., of Soho, near Birmingham; and it is said that the quantity contracted for amounts to between 1700 and 1800 tons, or something like 250 or 300 millions of pence, halfpence, and farthings.

A MR. HEARNE, bookseller, has obtained a verdict and £25 damages in the Court of Queen's Bench against the *Morning Star* for libel. The libel was contained in an article commenting on proceedings in the Divorce Court affecting the character of Mr. Hearne.

A HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SEVEN LIBERAL MEMBERS of Parliament have signed a memorial to Lord Palmerston requesting him to withdraw the objectionable clause from the Census Bill.

M. RENAN, member of the French Institute, has been charged by the Emperor with the mission of endeavouring to discover the sites of Tyre and Sidon.

THE SHERIFF OF NORFOLK has offered a cup of the value of £50 to the best rifle shot among the unenrolled volunteers of the county. The prize will be shot for on the Norwich range, in the third week of September. Three rounds will be fired by each man, at distances of 300, 400, 500, and 600 yards, according to the regulations.

THE PATRIE, in a leading article, anticipates that the Corps Legislatif will throw out the Government bill for abolishing, though on condition of retaining a very high duty, the prohibition of the exportation of rags, and lays down the doctrine that "rags" is an article to which the science of political economy does not apply.

MR. BROUGHTON, who lately retired from the magisterial bench, died on Friday night, the 29th ult., of paralysis. He was upwards of eighty years of age.—Sudden indisposition has induced Mr. Bingham, the recent magistrate at the Marlborough Police Court, to resign.

THE BENICIA BOY has returned to America—without a belt. The one presented to him at the Alhambra is not yet paid for, and is detained by the makers, Messrs. Hancock.

ADMIRAL SIR GEORGE BOWYER died a few days ago at Dresden.

THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS at ANCONA having addressed complaints to the English Consul, that functionary showed them the Act of Parliament declaring that any Englishman taking service under a foreign Power loses his rights as a British subject, and told them that he could not do anything for them.

A MAN NAMED REID was killed in a prize-fight on the banks of the Clyde last week.

FIVE THOUSAND HARVESTMEN have already left Drogheda for Liverpool this season. On Friday night there was a regular shillelagh fight between about 1000 of the Connaught men before they embarked.

THE SUBSCRIPTION commenced in Yarmouth and Lowestoft in aid of the widows and orphans of the 260 poor fishermen whose lives were sacrificed in the late dreadful gale is progressing, as it ought to be. The Queen and Prince Albert have made a joint subscription of £200.

ABRAHAM CANN, once champion wrestler of England, is now an old man in great poverty. A subscription has been got up for him, to which £10 has been added out of the Royal Bounty Fund.

ADMIRAL SIR GEORGE BROOKE PEECHEL, member for Brighton, died a few days since, at the age of seventy-one. His seat in the House of Commons is contested by Mr. J. White, late M.P. for Portsmouth, and Mr. F. W. Goldsmid.

THE BELVEDERE COLLECTION OF PICTURES.—A collection of twenty-five pictures of the highest quality and importance, being the choicest portion of the celebrated Belvedere collection, the property of Sir Culling Eardley, was submitted to public competition on Saturday last, by Messrs. Christie, Manson, and Woods. These twenty-five pictures, with two others of minor note, realised the sum of £25,887 15s. within the short space of an hour and a half. A *Murillo* (Bartolome Estéban), "The Immaculate Conception," was put up at 5000 guineas, and advanced by 500 guineas at each bidding till it reached the enormous amount of 9000 guineas, at which sum it was adjudged to Mr. Graves. Another, by Rubens, was put up at 1600 guineas, and advanced 500 guineas at each bidding till it reached the sum of 7500 guineas, at which sum it was bought by Mr. Ward.

THE VOLUNTEERS AND RAILWAY TRAVELLING.—An intimation has been issued, under the authority of Mr. Sidney Herbert, to the effect that the following railway companies have agreed to give the same privileges to volunteers, when on duty and in uniform, as are accorded by them to her Majesty's military and other forces under similar circumstances, namely:—The Elythe and Tyne, Stockton and Darlington, Taff Vale, Deeside, South-Eastern, London and South-Western; London, Brighton, and South Coast; Great Western, Great Northern, North-Eastern, West Hartlepool, Maryport and Carlisle, and Midland Railway companies. These are to convey commissioned officers at a fare not exceeding 2s. 6d. per mile, and 1s. 6d. per mile for each soldier. The London and North-Western and Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Company, first-class carriages, 2s. 6d. per mile; in carriages protected from weather, 1s. 6d. per mile, on producing a route. Bristol and Exeter, the double journey at a single fare. North Staffordshire, 1s. 6d. per mile, second-class, for going and returning; officers, 2s. 6d. per mile, first-class—to go and return for 3s. 6d. per mile, or a fare and a half. South Devon, first-class to officers; first or second to privates, at Government fares, on giving a verbal assurance that the volunteers are going to drill, &c. Eastern Counties, first-class, 2s.; second-class, 1s. 6d. per mile. Great North of Scotland, first-class, 2s.; third-class, 1s. 6d. per mile.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE resolutions which Lord Palmerston has just laid upon the table of the House are to be opposed by all the strength of the Conservative party in the Commons, and, if they should be carried there, they will be resented in the Lords. There is, therefore, now a "collision" between the two Houses. Lord Palmerston, when the Lords rejected the Paper Tax Bill, deprecated the idea of a collision, but it has come nevertheless, and will lead to results. The resolutions are not satisfactory to the extreme Liberals; but, on carefully reading them and reflecting upon the matter, I am of opinion that they are quite as strong as we could expect them to be; that they will, if carried, be effective for the purpose at which they aim; and that, if they had been drawn up in stronger and more pointed language, it would have been impossible to carry them. The only fault that I can see in them is the want of a preamble setting forth the necessity for the resolutions. Perhaps, however, such a preamble will yet be prefixed. And now let us consider what will be the effect of these resolutions if they should be carried, and what will be the consequences if they should be rejected. It has been said, then, that, though the Commons may pass them, the Lords will certainly refuse them its sanction, and that then they will be of no effect. But this is not so; for our Parliamentary records abundantly prove that all regulations as to money bills have been made by the Commons, and that, however obnoxious these regulations may have been to the Lords, their Lordships have in the end always obeyed them. These resolutions, if carried, will stand upon the journals; and, if in the teeth of them the Lords should reject a money bill, the Commons will take further and more effective action, and in the end the Upper House will in this, as in all precedent cases of the like character, have to give way. In short, if the Commons be but true to themselves, the Lords cannot do otherwise than succumb. And now what will be the consequences if the Commons should reject these resolutions? Well, I apprehend that the Government must in such case do one of two things. It must promptly resign or dissolve Parliament. Now, resignation without a dissolution is, I consider, out of the question. Therefore, if defeated, I think Lord Palmerston will certainly appeal to the country.

And, now, what are the probabilities of success to the resolutions? I write so early this week that it is impossible for me to venture to prophesy. I may, however, say that much will depend upon the tone and attitude of Lord Palmerston. If he meet the Opposition gallantly, and bravely announces that he will, if beaten, throw himself upon the country, I think he will succeed, for there is nothing that honourable members dread so much as another general election. It would be costly to all, and death to many. Indeed, if this battle should be fought out at the hustings, there will be at least a hundred and fifty saddles empty at the close of the fight; and, as no man knows what may be his fate in the struggle, we may be sure that some, however much they may dislike the resolutions, will find their courage oozing out at their fingers' ends as the division approaches. It is said that Lord Palmerston will certainly throw down the gauntlet; that he has been so pestered and obstructed, trilled with, and insulted by the Opposition, that he rather wishes for an opportunity to rid himself of this Derby Parliament, and get one of his own. Indeed, there has long been a feeling creeping over the House that he will, under any circumstances, appeal to the country before long. Meanwhile, we shall have a battle, and a stern one. Already the fiery cross has gone forth, and before Friday every man, by telegram, or letter, or messenger, will have been urgently summoned to his post. The great speech will be Gladstone's. Ever since he received that insulting slap on the face from the Lords we may be sure that he has been "nursing his wrath to keep it warm," and sedulously preparing for this fight. Gladstone has certain High Church notions which have made him unpopular in some quarters; but he is essentially a member of the Commons of England. He sprang from the people; his sympathies are all with them; and we may rely upon it he will "stick to his order." The House will, of course, be crowded to excess; but if there be but a rat-hole left open I will get in and hear the great Chancellor's oration.

Since the above was written I have learned that the Conservative leaders have suddenly called a council to consult whether, after all, it will be well to oppose the resolutions. The fear of dissolution, I fancy, has already begun to operate. The council is now in consultation.

The first gathering under the auspices of the National Rifle Association, commenced on Monday, at Wimbledon, was inaugurated successfully. The weather was splendid, and the common looked more like the racehill at Epsom than the gorse expanse of "open" so pleasant to the eyes of the sugar-brokers and wealthy City people who have pitched their substantial stone and stucco tents all round it. The fittings of the Queen's pavilion were in the best taste; indeed, it is curious to notice how complete has been the revolution during the last few years in the style of decoration. We have learned to subsume our leanings towards gorgeous colouring, and to harmonise furniture, drapery, and flowers in a manner unknown some twenty years ago. It was very gratifying to see the enthusiasm displayed by the Swiss deputation as her Majesty passed by: their huzzas attracted the Queen's notice and obtained a special mark of recognition. The shooting on Monday was not very good, and, though the competitors shot from under cover of a tent, they complained greatly of being placed directly opposite the sun. The smallness of space to be apportioned, and the close vicinity of houses, almost encircling the common, doubtless necessitated this choice of ground; but the weather not being so brilliant later in the week the complaint was not renewed.

The poetical writings of the late Mr. Robert Brough, many of which will bear favourable comparison with any second-class English poetry, will be collected from the various periodicals to which they were originally contributed, and will shortly be issued in a complete form, under the editorial supervision of Mr. Hollingshead. A biographical notice of Mr. Brough is also in preparation for the *Welcome Guest* by his intimate friend Mr. G. A. Sala.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

STILL let us give the post of honour to *Maga*—still let the pictured presence of stern old Buchanan walk in the van of our notices, though younger competitors are now striving hard to "push him from his stool." Honour to *Blackwood*, more especially this month, when he gives us a number which in variety and excellence is a great improvement on his recent issues. The new number commences with an exceedingly interesting "History of the Russian Campaign of 1812," based upon the recently-published work of Sir Robert Wilson, a military man of great powers of observation, who had every opportunity for becoming acquainted with the secret springs both of the diplomatic and military tactics of the times. Captain Speke's "Adventures in Somali Land" do not improve so much as to induce a hope that the account of a further African pilgrimage, which he speaks of himself as about to engage in, in the last paragraph of his paper this month, may be made public. Under the title "Poetry" there is a somewhat severe but, on the whole, tolerably impartial review of Owen Meredith, of the unhealthy Gallic tendency of whose mind, more especially as exhibited in his love-poems, the writer makes just complaint. The criticism on "The Royal Academy and other Exhibitions" is, as usual, very dashing if not very sound, and upholds the painter of twenty years' standing—the broad, generalising school—against the "higgiers" of the present day. There is a very readable descriptive paper called "An Election in France," a pendant to one recently published concerning the Savoy and Nice elections, which throws strange light on the power and functions of M. les Préfets in the provincial arrondissements of France. A fragmentary poem, "Evening," is pretty and melodious, but reads like what it is—a direct imitation of the mad passages in "Maud." The political paper of the month is on the conduct of the Tories in regard to the barked Reform Bill.

Let *Fraser* have the next place, leaving its sturdy, younger brethren to battle on afterwards, as they are perfectly able to do, in their own robust strength and rounding goodly proportions. Not that there are any signs of growing old in *Fraser*; on the contrary, there is, perhaps, no magazine now published that keeps up such an average of good writing. The pleasantest, most interesting, and doubtless most popular

paper this month is a descriptive article on "The Volunteer Course at Hythe School of Musketry," by Viscount Bury, the Lieutenant-Colonel of the Civil Service Regiment. Ample in detail, facile in execution, and containing much excellent practical advice, this paper is written in a genial style, which, without sacrificing the freshness of the notice, shows the polished ease and elegance of the practical writer. There is no straining after effect, all is natural, wholesome, and genuine, thoroughly unaffected, and imbued with a spirit of belief in the cause which it advocates seldom found in these days of rapid languor and sneering self-sufficiency. There are two very good essays on "The Importance of Energy in Life" and "A Plea for Truth in Advertisement," in the latter of which the booksellers' advertisements of reviews in certain literary journals are amusingly parodied. Capital, too, is an article on "Social and Political Life Five-and-Thirty Years Ago," containing, amongst other matter, a very clever sketch of Bellamy's kitchen and its frequenters. "An Old Rod for New Poets" is a sharp castigation in verse for the followers of the spasmodic school, reproaching them specially for the absurdity of their imagery, and for their frequent irrelevance. Mr. Matthew Arnold contributes a pretty poetic legend, "St. Brandon;" and there is the first instalment of the "Chronicle of Current History," which seems closely, fairly, and impartially written.

The *Corinth Magazine* opens with the first chapter of the "Lectures on the Four Georges," now printed for the first time, and abounding in vivid character-sketching, terse description, and pleasant by-the-way moralising, as all the world knows. Nothing can be more admirable than the description of the German Herzogin in Zell given in the first few pages. The number is rich in poetical matter. Mr. Thackeray contributes a set of verses on his favourite theme, "Vanitas Vanitatum," written in a lady's album containing the autographs of all kinds of celebrities. The verses bear the usual moral, and are flowing and metrical, varied but by one slight error, where the author sacrifices his grammar to his rhyme, and writes of "throne-upset and sceptres broke." A "broke" sceptre is scarcely an elegant phrase. Mrs. Barrett Browning's contribution is called "A Musical Instrument," bemoaning, very sweetly, the fate of the reeds cut by the great god Pan from their parent river. The illustration of the great god Pan in triple rows of sausage-curls, and with extraordinary length of limb, is by Mr. Leighton, of "Cimabue" celebrity. Mr. Matthew Arnold's poem, "Men of Genius," is also marked with much grace and fancy, specially in the concluding stanza. The instalment of the "Hogarth Papers" is devoted entirely to "The Rake's Progress," treating the series of pictures as an eight-act drama, and elaborating the story in the well-known picturesque manner of the biographer. There are three scientific articles, "Physiological Riddles," "Electricity and the Telegraph," and "Adulteration and its Remedy;" and a clever Roundabout Paper, "Thorns in the Cushion," showing how even the editor of this prosperous periodical finds worry mixed with his success, and is the victim of innumerable and unappeasable correspondents.

The other magazines will be noticed next week.

THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

MANY years have passed since Wimbledon Common has seen such a vast concourse of people as that assembled on Monday. Nothing like it has been seen there since that memorable review when the Prince Regent restored to the Duke of York his baton of Field-Marshal. There were probably not less than 100,000 persons on the common and along the roads leading to it. The railway trains, though running frequently, afforded but inadequate accommodation, and long lines of carriages, carts, and waggon conveyed hundreds and thousands along dusty roads in a procession as endless as that of a Derby Day.

A low plank fence skirting the side of the road running from Putney to Wimbledon, and extending about 500 yards on each side in the direction of the spaces reserved for the firing parties, served to keep out all persons not paying for admission; but this levying of toll did not prevent many thousands from going on to the ground. The Royal tent was pitched on the left of the common, and was approached by a road-way formed for the carriages. It was tastefully decorated with flags and banners, and immense banks of flowering plants. From the front of the tent a plank gangway was laid down two hundred yards in length, covered with matting and crimson cloth, and leading to a small circular pavilion, from which her Majesty fired the first shot. On either side were two large marquees for the accommodation of the members of the Court and their friends, a crowd of the aristocracy, and persons who paid half-a-guinea admission. On the right of the ground were a cluster of tents, occupied by the secretary, the members of the council, the surgeon, the armourer, sappers and miners, police, and a printing-press, where the scores of the shooting of the different companies were printed each day.

The butts were ranged from north to south, twenty in number, arranged in pairs; and behind those at the north end were four other butts for the ranges of 1000 yards. The firing points were measured off at distances varying according to the ranges to be fired. The butts were pyramidal heaps of earth, 49 feet in length, 25 in width, and 12 in height. An iron target was placed in front of each, and protection was afforded to the marker by means of a shot-proof iron mantelet.

The volunteers who had been selected by the different corps to attend the meeting assembled on the common about twelve o'clock, and were formed into sections by Colonel M. Murdo, Inspector of Volunteers. They were then marched down and placed in a line on each side of the gangway along which the Royal party passed to the firing-tent. The volunteers were in every variety of uniform adopted by the corps throughout the country—greys, and browns, and greens and scarlets, and blacks and drabs, with facings and braiding of all hues and shades; shakos with luxurious cocks' feathers, hats with plumes, and modest-looking forage-caps, all presenting upwards of a hundred varieties of dress and uniform. No corps has sent more than four men, and many were represented by one only. Behind one of these motley lines was drawn up a band of Swiss in plain dress, who had come to contest the prize. Each of these had a small ribbon fastened to the buttonhole in his coat. On the opposite side were massed the united bands of the Household Brigade. In the rear of these, and adjoining the Royal tent, was a cluster of the most elegant and illustrious daughters of England's aristocracy. It would be necessary to print half the *Court Guide* were we to give the names of all who formed that garden of living beauty. Far as the eye could reach was a vast crowd of human heads, booths and stands without number, flags of all nations, and the towering trees of Earl Spencer's park; while, stretching eastward, lay the wide expanse of sedge grass and slopy heath, bounded on the horizon by the line of long low heaps of earth which formed the shooting-butts. It was a spectacle perfectly unique. It was not a Derby Day, for there was no Grand Stand, and the carriages in the inner ring were not so numerous, and there were none of those salient points which give character to the great celebration of our Isthmian games. It was not such a sight as is afforded by a review at Aldershot or in Hyde Park, for there was but little of the pomp and circumstance of military display.

There was one person at Wimbledon who all this time was nervous, and felt no small degree of responsibility—it was Mr. Whitworth. This gentleman was charged with the duty of arranging the rifle which her Majesty was to fire at the 400 yards range. A "rest" had been provided by this ingenious mechanist, from which one of his own rifles was to be discharged by the Queen, but such was the tender nature of the soil on which it stood that the apparatus was constantly sinking, and required constantly fresh adjustment. Every time the rifle was fired the shot struck the bull's-eye, but this would not satisfy the inventor—it must hit the very centre of the bull's-eye. He sent the bullet through a three-inch plank placed in front of the target; he would have shot No. 2 pass through the hole made by shot No. 1, and the bullet did his bidding on more than one occasion. This, however, could not always be relied upon, and up to the moment of the arrival of the Queen the rifle was repeatedly tried.

At length there came the distant shouts of the people, and a cloud of dust told of the approach of the Royal cortege. The volunteer guard of honour fell into their ranks, shouldered arms; aides-de-camp

galloped furiously, as they always do when they have some trifling message to carry to a commanding officer; there was a general flurry and excitement; the united bands gave forth the familiar strains of the National Anthem; the artillery thund red a salute; and, as an anticlimax, the ladies and gentlemen who could not see through the volunteers and Swiss guard, cried out very lustily, "Hats off!" The Royal party travelled in seven carriages, and they came by the way of Pimlico Suspension Bridge, Battersea Park, Wandsworth, and through Wimbledon Park-road, escorted by a troop of Hussars, and receiving along the whole route the loud cheers of the thousands who lined each side of the road. In the first carriage were the Queen, the Prince Consort, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, and Princess Alice; in the second carriage, their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Princess Helena.

The council of the association and its president, Mr. Sidney Herbert, received her Majesty at the entrance of the pavilion. After the Queen and Prince Albert had taken their places on the dais the president, on behalf of the association, presented addresses from that body. The ceremony occupied but a short time, and immediately it terminated her Majesty, accompanied by Prince Albert, advanced along the narrow walk above described to the rifle-tent. One light touch on the string attached to the trigger and the "first shot" was fired that announced the opening of the competition, which will not close till Saturday (to-day). The red and white flag held before the target apprised those of the spectators who knew its meaning that the bullet fired by the Royal hand had hit the "bull's-eye." Her Majesty, therefore, scored three points, according to the rules of the association. The report of the rifle was followed by a hearty cheer from all parts of the ground.

As her Majesty and suite returned to the pavilion a Royal salute was fired. She remained for some time afterwards on the dais, overlooking the whole scene; and the general arrangements and plan of the ground were explained to her Majesty by Lord Elcho. During this interval the business of the meeting had commenced in earnest; the sharp crack of rifles firing at the targets on the right of the line being constantly audible. About five o'clock the Royal party re-entered their carriages, drove across the ground, just in the rear of the 300 yards distance points, from which the firing grew more rapid, and quitted the inclosure on the opposite side of the common.

The assembly began to disperse as soon as the Royal escort disappeared; an apparently interminable line of carriages divided on the Wandsworth-road, and made it almost impassable in two directions—Citywards and to Wimbledon. The excitement in Wimbledon when the detachment of Guards, with their splendid band, gorgeous in new uniforms, marched through on their way back to the station almost reached the point of wildness. The place has not yet recovered its self-possession.

Some explanation of the rules observed during the competition may be useful. The line of butts ran from south to north—twenty of them, in pairs, a target before each butt. At 200 and 300 yards the targets were six feet high by two feet in breadth, presenting the average of the superficial inches of a human figure. The surface was white, only the "bull's-eye" itself was black; it was eight inches in diameter. A shot placed within the diameter of the bull's-eye brought out a white and red flag from the mantelet, or screen for the marker, and denoted that three points were scored. A shot within two feet of the centre scored two points, and was announced by showing a dark-blue flag. Hitting the margin round the centre or "outer" only made one point; it was signalled by a white flag. When the "outer" was hit another series of numbered flags announced on what part of it the ball told, but the signals could not be made intelligible without a diagram. At all the distances above 300 yards the target was increased in size to a square of six feet, with a centre of three feet in diameter and no bull's-eye. The hoisting of a red flag denoted "danger;" when waved to and fro, near the ground, it indicated that the ball had struck the ground before hitting the target; the ricochet shots scored nothing. Volunteers were obliged to fire from the regulation position; "all comers" were permitted to do so in what position they pleased.

Although we have given the above description in the past tense, the trial is not concluded as we go to press. The most important prizes will be contested for to-day (Saturday), and therefore we reserve all account of the firing for the next number. We may record here, however, that the volunteers who entered for competition amounted to 331. The Swiss deputation used the Edfield rifle, not exactly from choice, but in consequence of an untoward accident that befell them when crossing the French frontier on their way to England. The French Custom-house officials seized and detained the rifles of the travellers, though they had taken the precaution to provide themselves with a certificate from the French Consul-General in Switzerland, stating the rifles were for export, and they object of the journey. The French officials were probably suspicious of Swiss arms at the present juncture, for no remonstrances availed anything, time pressed, and the Swiss deputation arrived without their rifles.

A sham fight and bivouac of the Metropolitan Volunteer Corps will take place next Saturday on a large tract of land lying between Bromley and Chislehurst in Kent. It is understood the volunteers will assemble on the ground on Friday afternoon, when a sort of rehearsal of what is to be done on the next day will take place between the various corps engaged. The War Office is to provide the tents, cooking, and other necessary apparatus, and as evening approaches the various corps will pitch their tents, and the contending armies are to form their own encampments. Whether the Government will also provide the eatables and drinkables necessary for the volunteer force likely to assemble on the occasion has not yet transpired, but it would appear that something of the sort must be contemplated, as it has been a noticed that the actual expense to each volunteer attending is not to exceed 2s. per man, including railway fare to the field of evolution and back again to town. Every movement is to be carried out by the sound of the bugle, and the sham fight will commence about eleven o'clock on Saturday morning, and conclude by about three in the afternoon, so as to enable the volunteers to reach town again before evening.

THE REVENUE.

THE Revenue returns for the quarter ending June 30 show an increase on the gross amount of more than £300,000 over the receipts of the corresponding quarter of last year, notwithstanding the loss of about £360,000 on customs, owing to the operation of the new tariff. On excise there is an increase of about £160,000, consequent on the earlier payment of duties on malt and an augmentation on hops. On stamps there is an improvement to the extent of £100,000, arising from succession and legacy duties, fire insurances, and stamps on legal instruments, and also in some degree from the new stamp duties on delivery orders, dock warrants, &c. On assessed taxes there is an increase of about £5000, owing, probably, to house duty. The income tax has improved to the extent of £300,000, caused by the additional rate. The growing business of the Post Office is shown by the addition of £10,000, proceeding from increased correspondence. Crown lands, as usual, are stationary. Under the head of miscellaneous the comparison is £70,000 in favour of the present returns, in consequence of the payment of the Spanish liabilities, amounting to about £240,000, which sum is diminished by the falling off in the sale of old naval and military stores.

The account for the year shows a loss of rather more than £250,000 on customs, for the reason already given in stating the quarter's account. The excise for the year is augmented by £2,300,000, partly by the malt credits previously alluded to, and partly from spirits, hops, and paper. Stamps are £270,000 better, owing to the causes already assigned. Assessed taxes show an access of £50,000, attributable to improved assessments. The increased rates of income tax result in an improvement of £3,600,000. The Post Office increase is £130,000. Crown lands show a small addition—£5000. Under the head of miscellaneous, notwithstanding the Spanish repayments, there still remains a decrease of £110,000, owing principally to diminished receipts for old stores, &c.

The aggregate improvement in the revenue for the year ending June 30 is £5,700,000.

Literature.

Solitary Musings, and other Poems. By CHARLES W. BRIDGART. Whittaker and Co.

Three of the poems in this volume, the author tells us, "have appeared in the monthly serials, as contributions to the *Family Friend*." This is a mysterious announcement, and seems to intimate that the poet, having obtained the insertion of his verses in the *Family Friend*, had afterwards sent copies round to *Blackwood*, *Fraser*, the *Conchill*, *Marmillan*, and so forth, with the imprimatur of the little domestic monthly attached. But we must avow that we have not seen either of the poems in question in the course of our not inattentive reading of the "monthly serials." It would, doubtless, have been a daring incongruity to send "Solitary Musings" to a magazine with such a very gregarious title as the *Family Friend*; but if Mr. Bridgart will take a hint he will confine himself to that "monthly serial" in future, even at the cost of selecting appropriate headings. We conclude by urging our humble counsels on the bard in his own words:—

O listen to the voice
Of one whom age has given experience to!
Disdain not our advice,
For thou art young and much hast to go through;
But we are old and wise
In all things that pertain to [rhyme]: we know,
Or rather guess, thy folly,
And read thy cogitations wholly!

Men Who Have Made Themselves. With Illustrations. James Blackwood.

This is one of a class of books which is in danger of becoming too numerous. Its specialty is that it contains a greater number of biographies, and picks its model men out of a wider range of choice, than, for instance, the "Self-Help" of Mr. Smiles. But we think it high time that the minds of the young had some corrective offered to them of the effects of this sort of reading. What, gentlemen-lecturers of our boys and girls, have you to say to

The thousands who, unknown to praise,
Have made one offering of their days,

without making themselves, or helping themselves, to anything in this world? Their biographies cannot be hunted up in dictionaries, and printed "with illustrations;" but we need not, we must not, write the stories of other lives in such a tone as implies any ignoring of the nameless, notless, help-less, unmade, good, and great. Woe betide the generation whose youth was so belectured!

Every Girl's Book. A Compendium of Entertaining Amusements for Recreation in Home Circles. Compiled by LOUISA LAWFORD. Routledge and Co.

This is well-nigh the pleasantest book on our table. We are rather pained just now with "Women and Work," and turn with a greedy welcome to girls and play. The volume is full of acting proverbs, conundrums, forfeits, charades, jeux de société, and rondes (with the music), and ought to put an end to household dullness for ever. English jeux de société are commonly wanting either in elegance or invention, and Mrs. Lawford has done well to "take advantage of a long residence abroad" to make this collection of charming trifles popular, or, as she says, "fashionable," among our neighbours. We cheerfully recommend the book, which is of a convenient size, and prettily got up. On page 171 the A in the fourth bar of the soprano of "The Love Merchant" should be sharp.

The Seven Sisters of Sleep: Popular Histories of the Seven Prevaling Narcotics of the World. By M. C. COOKE, Director of the Metropolitan Scholastic Museum. James Blackwood.

The title and conception of this work are much better than the execution. A very pleasant and (perhaps) edifying volume might be written about narcotics, but Mr. Cooke has not given it to us. He is, however, utterly without pretension, and is a not intolerable gossip. Half as much matter better edited (and better printed on a pleasant-smelling paper) would be more to our taste, and, we think, the world's.

The Baddington Peerage: Who Won and Who Wore It. A Story of the Best and the Worst Society. By GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA. 3 vols. C. J. Skeet.

Many of the readers of the *ILLUSTRATED TIMES* will remember "The Baddington Peerage" in the shape in which it appeared in these columns, and the proud beauty of Mallova Cray as she showed in one of our illustrations. Whether, however, they remember or not, they may depend upon finding plenty of amusement and not a little indirect teaching in these three volumes—full of faults, but full, also, of gipsy vigour, and (perhaps not quite unostentatious) power. The pretensions of a story as it appears in *gentlefolk* (when, indeed, it can hardly be criticised at all) when it appears "revised" in three volumes, must be judged by a different standard. Mr. Sala is the most effective talker round a subject or a character that we know, but we think that he has too exclusively cultivated his gift in that direction. There are surely possibilities of a higher kind in this remarkable writer? We would suggest that he should get rid of all temptation to loud writing (we admit that his is loud writing of the best sort) by attempting a story of a different and more natural kind. "The Baddington Peerage" belongs to that class of novels in which the entanglement and the tragedy come chiefly of intrigue; but the interest that springs out of this sort of entanglement inevitably runs into melodrama. Suppose Mr. Sala sat down to a novel in which the difficulties should come, as the real difficulties of life mostly do come, out of half-conscious or totally unconscious error, with the best intentions on all sides? We are sanguine that he would not entirely fail; and the quiet bypaths into which he would have to walk would partly break him of his fierce and splashy ways. He would be unable, then, for one thing, to keep up that dangerous *accumulative* trick of his, in which he is not approached by any writer of his day. Instances may be found in his description of the Duke of Miniver, of Tinctop's old mother, and the chamber of the heroine. Mr. Sala's talent for heaping up sensuous detail is, indeed, astonishing; his inventories of whatever is inventoriable are almost good enough for Ruskin and almost bad enough for Robins. Has he the least idea how much wardrobe and upholstery he puts into a book? We can promise the "general reader" of "The Baddington Peerage" excitement, and entertainment, and some real insight into "life," if he knows when and how to allow for Mr. Sala's egotisms and mannerisms. The more "curious" reader will find here, over and above the "entertainment," a study of great powers fitfully and squanderingly used.

As this is avowedly a "revised" story, we shall scarcely be hypercritical if we say that it contains several inaccuracies of allusion, quotation, and description. The lines (for instance) said to be by "Vinny Bourne" (why "Vinny" for Vincent?), but which, in reality, are in a translation by Cowper from Bourne, are quoted both erroneously and ungrammatically. The verse

Stone walls do not a prison make,

&c., is wrong too. What the fool said in his heart is attributed to a part of the Bible in which it is certainly not to be found; and Philip Leslie lives in a street of which there is a minute description given, fixing the locality intended beyond mistake, but also implicating the author in topographical blunders hardly to be looked for from such a travelled man. These are small matters; but Mr. Sala has an extraordinary memory, and he should take pains enough to do its fulness justice, by a corresponding degree of correctness.

We repeat that "The Baddington Peerage" is a powerful and amusing tale, and one which will be inquired for at the libraries, though Mr. Sala modestly opines it will not. At all events, not a fourth of the novels that are inquired for will so well repay the trouble of reading them.

THE VOLUNTEERS.—MANUAL EXERCISE.

(CONTINUED FROM VOL. 10, PAGE 407.)

SLOPE ARMS.—At "One," the motion is the same as the first motion of "Present Arms." At "Two," bring the rifle on to the left shoulder, the muzzle slanting to the rear, and seize it with the left hand, the first two joints of the fingers grasping the butt, the thumb alone on the heel of it, the guard pressed gently against the shoulder; the left elbow close to the side. At "Three," bring the right hand down to the right side.

CARRY ARMS.—At "One," seize the small of the butt with the



7. SLOPE ARMS.



8. TRAIL ARMS.

the whole available steam-tug flotilla of Leith been pressed into requisition for the day, but this force was increased by several from the Tyne, so that ample accommodation was provided for all who chose to gratify their curiosity by a sight of one of the most magnificent marine spectacles which the waters of the Forth has ever witnessed.

On board the fleet preparations for putting to sea were palpable and unmistakable. About noon the entire squadron seemed to be suddenly transformed into a huge flotilla of steam-ships. Black, white, cream, and copper coloured funnels rose up between the fore and main masts of every vessel in the fleet, and vomited forth clouds of thick, fat smoke. Tars were laying out on yards and bowsprits, scampering

About two the signal to weigh was made by the flag-ship. Scarcely had the gaily-coloured bunting fluttered out in the breeze when the boatswain's whistle was heard, in a few moments afterwards the shrill notes of the fife gave token that the anchors were being weighed, and ere some of them came dripping to the bows hundreds of seamen sprang into the shrouds, swarmed out upon the yards, and almost immediately the whole fleet was dressed from hull to truck in a cloud of canvas, and the yards hoisted home. The *Royal Albert* was the first to get fully under way, and she immediately took the lead, bearing down St.



9. STAND AT EASE.

right hand. At "Two," bring the rifle to the right side and seize it as described in the position "at the shoulder," carrying the left hand across the body to steady it. At "Three," drop the left arm to the left side.

PORT ARMS.—At "One," the motion is the same as the first motion of "Present Arms." At "Two," bring the rifle in the left hand to a diagonal position across the body, the lock being to the front, and seize the small of the butt at once with the right hand, the thumb and fingers round the stock; the left wrist should be opposite the left breast; both elbows should be close to the body, the muzzle slanting upwards, so that the barrel may cross opposite the point of the left shoulder.

TRAIL ARMS.—Bring the rifle to a horizontal position at the right side, holding it with the right hand behind the lower band (thumb and fingers round the piece) at the full extent of the arm.

STAND AT EASE.—Push the muzzle of the rifle to the front with the right hand, keeping the arm close to the side; at the same time move the left foot six inches to the front, the knee slightly bent, and the principal weight of the body resting on the right leg, as described in the former position of standing at ease.

The volunteer should pay great attention to the foregoing instructions, as the bayonet exercise tends greatly to strengthen the muscles of the arms, and accustoms them to the use of the rifle. By this means he will also find that the task of steadying his aim when he commences firing will be considerably lessened. The instructions given for the different movements will be much better understood by reference to the different figures, the attitudes of which should be carefully studied.

In a single combat with a swordsman the bayonet is a formidable weapon. The superior length of thrust, and the impetus given thereto, will be fully seen by reference to the drawing in a former illustration of "Shorten Arms," and the other illustrations of sword against bayonet.

THE CHANNEL FLEET.

THE Channel Fleet, after having been an object of great attraction to the citizens of Edinburgh for nearly a fortnight past, took its departure from St. Margaret's Hope on Saturday, the 23rd ult. The news of the anticipated departure of the squadron had the effect of drawing out considerable numbers of pleasure-seekers, notwithstanding the somewhat hazy character of the weather and the cold westerly wind, so that by ten o'clock the West Pier at Leith was crowded by people of every description elbowing their way out to the steam-boats and battling for favourable points of view along the quay. Alongside the jetty itself the number of small steam-vessels moored in triple rows, many of them decked out in endless coloured flags, was a sight which is seldom witnessed there. Not only had



FRIZE MEDAL.

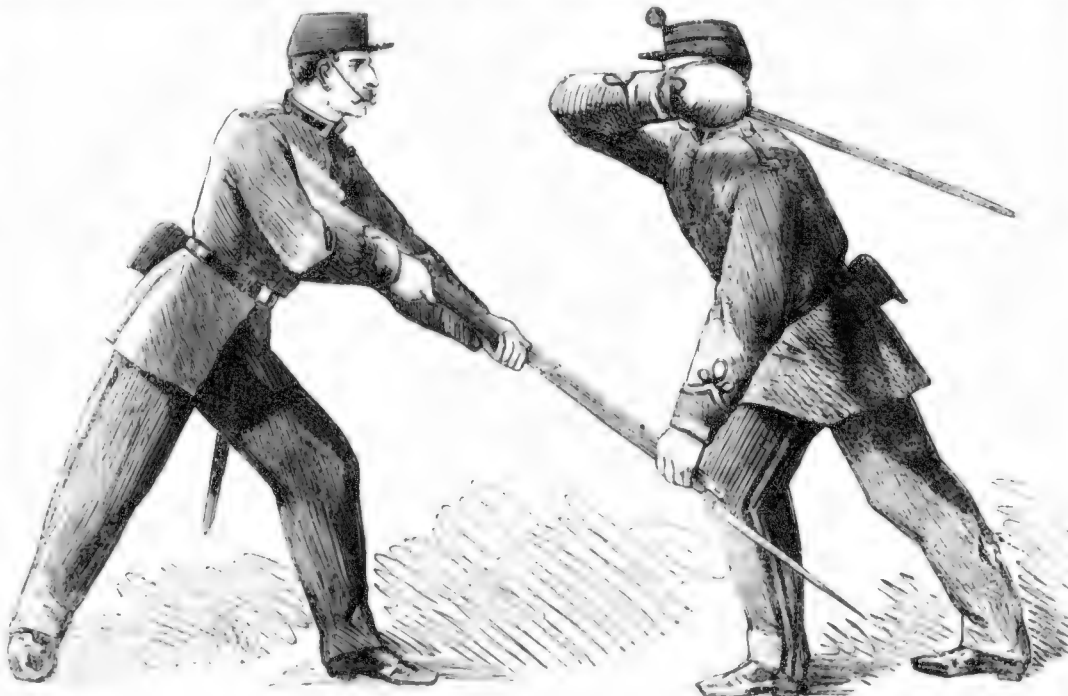


up the rigging, and sliding down the stays. Reefing-tackle was getting prepared, and preparations for casting loose the sails were going forward. Boats were being hoisted aloft and secured, and everything made ready in anticipation of the signal from the Admiral.

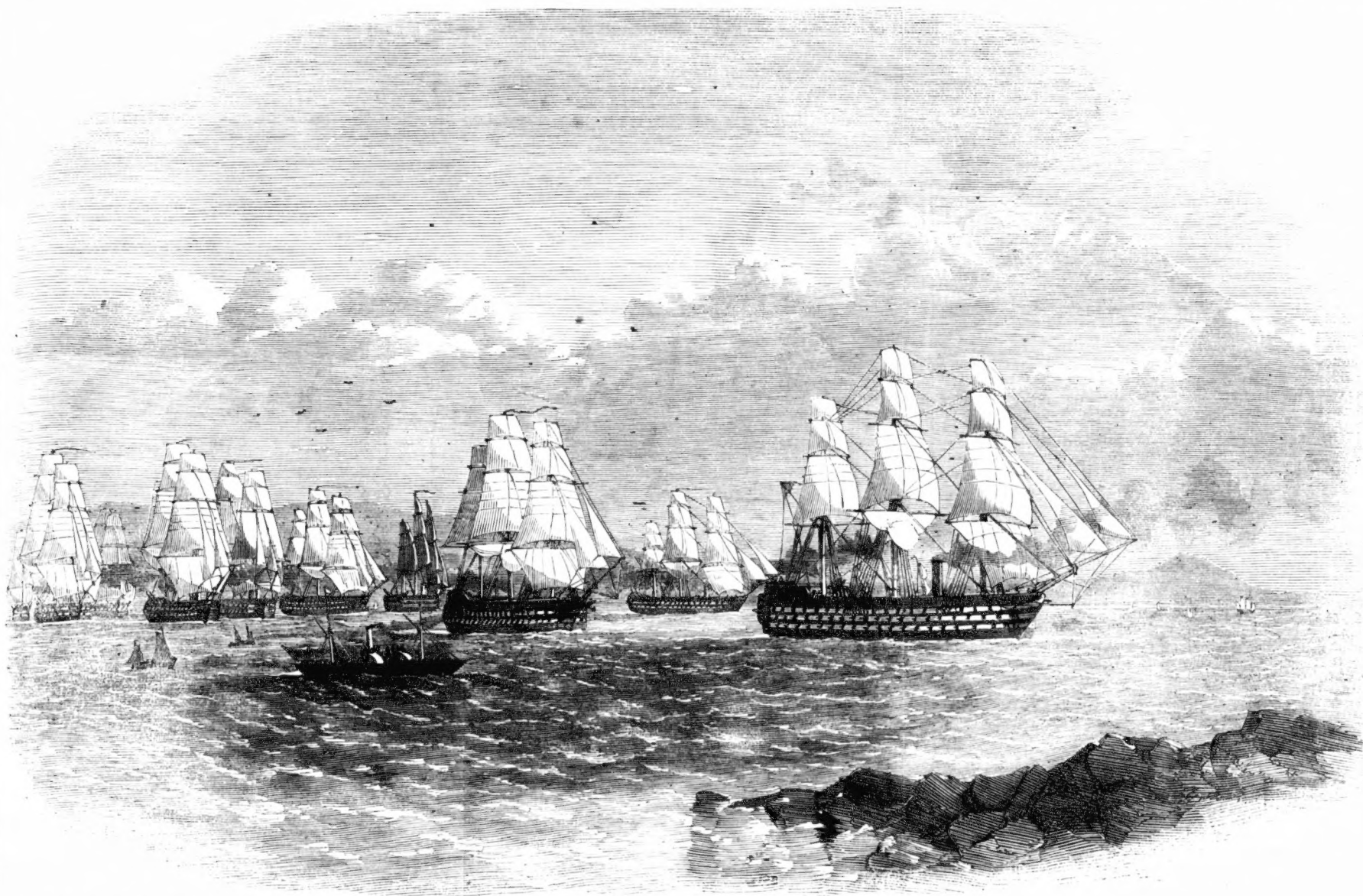
formed into two, and the fleet proceeded a considerable distance in a triple line.

The fleet kept well into the Fife coast during its progress from the Hope roads till a little below Inchkeith, when it wore gradually and kept further off. The wind, which had been freshening for some hours past, now blew steadily out to sea, swelling out the sails of the squadron till they were tight as drumheads, and bringing down some pattering drops of rain. The southern coast was wrapped up and almost obscured in sluggish mists, but the waters ahead, as far down as the Bass, were unobscured by the fog. The fleet kept dead ahead of the wind, and went down the estuary in admirable order, the towering masts crowded with tapering canvas, the huge hulls with their tiers of decks and the rolling clouds of smoke from the funnels being distinctly visible from Inchkeith for an hour after they had swept past. Gradually, however, the individuality of the various hulls began to become indistinct and confused, the smoke, instead of being seen to roll from the throats of the various funnels, collected into a drifting mass, which hung out ragged and gloomy in the atmosphere, and the innumerable sails, arched above each other to a bewildering height, diminished by degrees into a huge single sheet of canvas, which lay on the misty horizon like a dirty cloud. The huge sheets then broke into several smaller sheets, and by seven o'clock the fleet had become mere specks at the entrance of the Firth.

On Saturday the fleet arrived in Yarmouth roads. The ships had meanwhile been engaged in target practice, out at sea. At Yarmouth they did not



BAYONET EXERCISE AGAINST THE SWORD.



CONQUEROR. CENTURION. MERSEY. ABOUKIR. ALGIERS. MARS. TRAFALGAR. DONEGAL. EDGAR. ROYAL ALBERT.

THE CHANNEL FLEET PASSING INCHKEITH, FIRTH OF FORTH.

remain long—much to the disappointment of the good people of that port. On Monday the fleet sailed for Deal, its destination thence being Spithead.

There is some talk of a naval review before the departure of the Prince of Wales for Canada.

FASHIONS FOR JULY.

THE favourable change of weather during the past week has, at length, brought out the gay dresses prepared for summer. Robes of printed, jaconet, and even white muslin, have appeared in considerable numbers. Organdy and mousseline de soie are also favourite materials, and the colours and patterns prepared for the present season are extremely beautiful. Various styles of trimming are adopted. Flat bands, running plainly round the bottom of the skirt, are very fashion-

able; but flounces are by no means discarded. For transparent textures—as muslin, mousseline de soie—a series of narrow flounces is the most appropriate trimming.

Bonnets of white chip are very generally worn. They are trimmed with bouquets of flowers or with ribbon; a bow being usually placed in front, with the ends flowing towards each side. Bonnets of white crape and blonde are also fashionable; but they are suitable only to a superior style of costume. For early morning dress, bonnets of straw or crinoline are generally preferred.

The chapeaux de campagne for young ladies are still in the form Louis XV. Some of a very elegant and novel kind have just made their appearance in Paris. They are made of fine leghorn, and ornamented with cocks' plumes shaded in black and violet. A band of violet-coloured velvet encircles the crown.

Mantelets of black lace are becoming very numerous. An elegant

style of mantelet is composed of black glacé, with a very broad fall of Chantilly lace. A few mantles of the bournous form, made of worked muslin, have been seen, but they are not likely to be generally adopted. Plain scarfs of white muslin, edged with runnings of ribbon of a colour corresponding with that of the robe, are much worn by young ladies. Pelisses of black or coloured silk still maintain favour. Shawls of black silk, trimmed with rich black lace, have recently been worn in Paris by ladies of high fashion.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

Fig. 1. *Ball Dress*.—Robe of white tarletane, with three skirts, embroidered in bouquets of red and blue cornflowers and wheatears. The corsage is pointed at the waist, and has a double berthe of tarletane embroidered in the same manner as the skirts. At the top of the corsage a bouquet of red and blue cornflowers. The short sleeves are bouillons of tulle, and long engageantes pointed at the ends, and cut



FASHIONS FOR JULY.

out in small scallops. The headdress is a circular wreath of red and white cornflowers mingled with daisies and wheat ears.

Fig. 2. Dress of striped silk; the stripes pale green and white. The skirt is trimmed with a broad band of green silk, finished at the upper edge with a row of narrow black lace. The corsage is high at the back, and opens in a point in front. It has a revers of pale green silk edged with narrow black lace. The sleeves are very wide, and trimmed at the ends by broad bands of green silk and black lace edging. Up the front of the dress are bows of green silk edged with black lace. Chemisette and under-sleeves of embroidered muslin. Cap of tulle and blonde, ornamented on one side with three eye-daisies, and at the back a bow of green ribbon.

Fig. 3. Half mourning Costume.—Dress of violet-coloured gaze de soie; the skirt trimmed with nine flounces, each edged with a bias fold of silk striped in white and black. The corsage is in folds and slightly open at the upper part. The sleeves are wide and open in front of the arm; they are trimmed with three narrow flounces, which are carried up the edges of the sleeves to the shoulder. The openings of the sleeves are confined by bands of silk. A chemise of gaze de soie, edged with bias bands of silk, like those which trim the flounces, flows in long streamers in front of the waist. Full under-sleeves of white muslin. A chip bonnet, trimmed with a wreath of violet-coloured flowers. Bavolet and strings of violet ribbon.

Fig. 4. Dress of apricot-colour piqué. The skirt is trimmed with bows of black sarcenet ribbon, set on flat. Corsage Zouave, edged with bias bands of black silk and trimmed with bows of black ribbon. The sleeves are slit open at the back part of the arm, and the open parts are attached by a lacing of black silk cord. The back hair is confined in a black silk net, with tassels at each side, and a bandeau of black velvet passes across the upper part of the forehead.

THE RIFLEMEN'S ADIEU TO THE ORPHEONISTES.

Our riflemen are at length beginning to reap the reward of their toilsome drills in sloppy yards, in close "halls," schoolrooms, and warehouses; of their cheerless "marchings out" through continuous cascades of rain; of their patience, subordination, and good temper. The British public, at first so jealous towards the uniform, is now beginning heartily to appreciate and respect the pluck and manliness of its wearers. The lowest lazy lounge of the streets thinks it now not advisable to insult the earnest men by whose means he and his class are provided so frequently with a brilliant and completely gratuitous spectacle. The cry of "Who shot the dog?" is now scarcely heard save from some poor little infant of three or four years old who has no more notion of insulting a volunteer thereby than he has of hurting the feelings of an acrobat by a squeal of "Ah babbion!" The strains of an approaching volunteer band bring to the window the entire population of the streets in the line of route; and Hansom cabmen and drivers of butchers' carts no longer seek to contest the road by driving among the "four deep" of the riflemen after their recent experiences of the general inadaptability and futility of such measures. Even the clerk of the weather, so long the implacable enemy of the gentlemen in green and grey, has given up his opposition in sheer weariness, and allows the sun and the riflemen to proceed unimpeded upon their joyous way.

The volunteer movement has been designated, not in sarcasm, but in hearty recognition, as a peace movement. The truth of this was most strikingly displayed on Saturday last at the Crystal Palace. Several hundreds of the "Queen's Westminsters" attended to bid farewell to the French Orphéonistes. The scene and its incidents are not likely soon to be forgotten by the men of either nation present on that day. Like other volunteer corps, the "Queen's" numbers in its ranks a large proportion of the educated classes. The volunteers of this corps were drawn up in line along the walk in front of the palace, and as the Orphéonistes passed, each band distinguished by its departmental banner, many of the volunteers began to raise shouts which raised the Frenchmen to demonstrations of extravagant delight. "Vive les Orphéonistes!" "Bon voyage!" "Au revoir!" and similar exclamations, were heard from the English line, while the Frenchmen, in recognition, rushed forward to the speakers, uttering such significant shouts as "Vive l'Alliance!" "Nous sommes tous frères!" "Soyons toujours unis!" and "Vive les Volontaires!" and clapping the hand of every volunteer within reach. The humorous element was not wanting. A volunteer shouted "A bas le mal de mer—ugh!" which was rewarded with a burst of laughter from the representatives of both nations. One excited Orphéoniste, rushing up to a volunteer who was eagerly bringing his linguistic capabilities to bear on the occasion, rewarded his efforts with a hearty hug and a kiss on each cheek, to the utter discomfiture of the learned volunteer and the intense amusement of his comrades. On the other hand, the Frenchmen were just as eager to display their acquaintance with the language of their newly-found friends. "We sail—meet together—again—some uezzer time!" exclaimed a delighted Orphéoniste. "Ah wee—Mossoo—certainmang—we sail meet together again some uezzer time!" was the reply, with a shout of "Au revoir!" That Mossoo had evidently exalted himself in the opinion of his companions.

THE COUNT DE MONTEMOLIN.

The *Constitutionnel* publishes the following:—

We receive at this moment a most unexpected document, and which we cannot insert except under every reserve. We are informed by letter that this document has been sent to the Queen of Spain, with a very affectionate letter, in which the Count de Montemolin explains at the same time his past renunciation and his present retraction:—

"DON CARLOS DE BOURBON ET DE BRAGANZA.

"Considering that the Act of Tortosa of the 23rd of April of the present year (1860) is the result of exceptional and extraordinary circumstances; that, meditated in a prison, and signed at a moment when all communication was forbidden us, it possesses none of the conditions required to render it valid;

"That consequently it is null and illegal, and cannot be ratified;

"That the rights of which it treats can only profit the persons who hold them from the fundamental law from which they emanate, and who are called by the aforesaid law to exercise them according to their rank and when the moment has arrived;

"In consequence of the advice of competent lawyers whom we have consulted, and the disapprobation which our best servants have frequently expressed,

"We retract the said Act of the 23rd of April of the present year 1860, and declare it null, and as if it had never been executed.

"Given at Cologne, the 15th of June, 1860.

"CARLOS LOUIS DE BOURBON ET DE BRAGANZA,

Count de Montemolin."

The Infant Don Ferdinand has retracted in the same terms.

If this document be authentic, it shows how right the Spanish people were in refusing to be ruled by the family they have repeatedly rejected. Count Montemolin has now given a better proof of his being the true nephew of his uncle Ferdinand VII. than could be found in any certificate of birth.

COURT SATIRE.—The *Journal de Lyon* lately gave an account of a charade played at Fontainebleau. The first word was "Gar," which—mis-spelling being allowed in acting charades—was understood to mean *Gare*, a railway station. This act represented the Emperor receiving the compliments of railway directors and capitalists as he was about to start on an excursion, and some of the privileged players respectfully took the opportunity to ask him to abolish the admission-fee of 1*fr.* to the Bourse. The second word was "gun," read *gant*. To indicate this, the Empress simply threw down a glove, which was scrambled for by two cavaliers. In the third act one of the cavaliers fought with the other and killed him—*tua*. The whole, as you perceive, is Gar-gant-tua. This type of a man with a capacious swallow is a fantastically-dressed Italian, who called continually for more food. After swallowing an unconscionable quantity of Milan macaroni he asked for Bologna mortadelle, then for Sicilian salad, and finally for Lachryma Christi. To each of his successive demands the courtiers cried "No, no!" and when the charade was guessed the Court rang with laughter at the likeness which they were intended to perceive between Gar-gantua and Count Cavour. The story was repeated by the *Pays*, but that Government journal has received a severe reproof for its indiscretion, and orders have been sent round to all the press to be silent on the subject.

INSOLVENCY AND COMMITTAL OF LORD GODOLPHIN OSBORNE.

In the Cambridge Insolvent Court, last week, Lord William Godolphin Osborne, son of the Duke of Leeds, applied for his discharge. The total of his debts were stated at £1066 6s. 11d., of which he stated £352 to be without consideration. The list of creditors included tailors, £320 13s. 9d.; tobacconists, £60; Cohen (money-lent and interest), £248 11s. 6d.; Lambert, livery-stable keeper, £131 14s. 7d.; college tutor, £79 10s. The insolvent was attributed to insolvent not being allowed by his father such an income as he had been led to anticipate, and to his being sued by his Cambridge creditors.

The insolvent was opposed on the ground that "he had expended a deficiency of £500 and odd at places not mentioned in the schedule; that he had bought three diamond rings, and had not stated where or how he had disposed of them; that he had driven certain persons (who, however, might be respectable) about Newmarket-heat with four horses; that he had done all this when he well knew he was insolvent, and having at that time an allowance of £12 a year only from his father. Knowing all this, the insolvent had contracted tailors' bills alone at the rate of £100 a year.

The insolvent, in examination, stated that he was twenty-five years of age, that until he came of age his father (the Duke) allowed him only £12 a year, but since he had come of age advanced it to £100 a year. His chief debts were to Cohen, contracted whilst he was at the Duke's residence at Gogmagog, near Cambridge, in 1855 and 1856. He had married in August, 1859, and since then had contracted no debts. Had no marriage settlement with his wife, and his father refused to increase his allowance. His only prospect of paying his debts was out of his allowance. He never told any one that he should have £1000 by his marriage. Never had a hamper of plate, although it was talked of to Laxton (a dog-fancier who assisted his Lordship to raise money), but not to Cohen. Did not know that Cohen made three journeys to Gogmagog to take away the hamper of plate. Never told Cohen that he would give him the hamper of plate for the money advanced as a security, and not to let the butler at Gogmagog know anything about the transaction. He lived in Norfolk-street, Barnwell, but never gave parties there or breakfasts. People came of their own accord. He never told Peters, the jeweller, that he had £3000 a year from his father, or T. Peters, the tailor, that he had £200 a year. "Wolf and Dolan (creditors for £270 12s) are tailors, in Conduit-street, London. I ordered, perhaps, five or six suits of them during the first three months, and perhaps five or six the next three. Those clothes were supplied to Laxton. I gave the order to Fuller (agent for Wolf and Co. at Cambridge) that they should be. I never saw them. I sometimes received a sovereign from Laxton for an order for a suit, and sometimes half a sovereign. I had two or three suits from Wolf and Dolan for my own use. The orders I understood to be in favour of Cohen, and that he would receive the clothes."

Mr. H. Peters was called, and swore insolvent told him his father allowed him £3000 a year, and Mr. T. Peters that he told him his income was £200 a year.

Lazarus Cohen, the opposing creditor, deposed that the insolvent had had more than £200 of him in sterling money. "Insolvent did say 'I have a hamper of plate; you shall have it as security, but I cannot get it out to-day, as the butler is in the way.' I credited him no more after that, but went three times to Gogmagog after the plate."

William Laxton was called, and said he also heard Lord William promise Cohen the hamper of silver, and he went and asked the butler whether he had any silver or not, and the butler replied, "I'll give you my word he's got no more silver than you have," and, continued the witness, "I have not above sixpence in that 'ere metal." He had been to Norfolk-street hundreds of times. "Hospitality was carried on well there, lots of men and women were there, and the breakfasts were sumptuous ones—beefsteaks, I call that sumptuous."

The Judge condemned the conduct of the insolvent. He had been contradicted on oath by two witnesses, and he must deal with him as he would with other persons. The discretionary clause gave the power of imprisonment for six months, but calendar months were not specified, and it was a rule of law that where that was the case lunar months should be taken to be meant. He should proceed under the penal clause, but no further than to alter the six lunar months in the discretionary clause into calendar months. The insolvent would have to be imprisoned for six calendar months from the date of his vesting order.

THE PROVINCES.

EXPLOSION IN A FIREWORK MANUFACTORY.—On Saturday morning the shed used as a manufactory for the fireworks used in the pyrotechnic displays at Belle Vue Gardens, Manchester, was destroyed by an explosion caused, apparently, by some unobserved friction in the processes of manufacture. There were six men and boys in the three rooms, and the door of the room in which the accident occurred was closed by the explosion, so as to cut off the escape of two men employed there. These men were so seriously burnt that their lives are despaired of. The shed was totally destroyed.

THE LIVERPOOL POISONING CASE.—A verdict of "Wilful murder" has been returned by the coroner's jury against Thomas Winslow, who is charged with poisoning his mistress, a lodging-house-keeper at Liverpool. The medical evidence went to show that she had died of natural causes, accelerated by the administration of antimony. Antimony was found in the body on exhumation, and antimony was found in the possession of the prisoner, who had some interest in the deceased's property under her will. He is suspected of having poisoned other members of the family.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM AT BRIGHTON.—A terrible thunderstorm burst over Brighton on Friday evening. About half-past five, the storm being then at its height, a ball of fire fell on to the roofs of some houses at the corner of Ashton-street, where it exploded with a tremendous report, shaking the ground and lighting up the surrounding atmosphere with a blue tint. No fragment of any meteoric substance was to be seen, and probably it was altogether composed of the electric fluid. A stack of chimneys was struck, and the mortar and slates completely peeled off. Part of the electric matter entering one of the chimneys found its way into the kitchen of the house, the whole apartment being for a second in a flame.

BARBAROUS MURDER OF A CHILD.—A barbarous murder was perpetrated at a village in the neighbourhood of Frome on Saturday morning. The body of a child about four years of age, the son of Mr. Kent, an inspector of factories, was found in the water-closet shockingly mutilated. He must have been taken out of the nurse's room in the night without her knowledge, and murdered while asleep. The body was wrapped in a blanket belonging to its bed. The guilty person must have been in the house over night, for all the fastenings were exactly as they had been left the previous night except the drawing-room window, which opens on to the lawn. This was a little way open, and the shutters unfastened, but no violence had been used either there or at the drawing-room door. The wounds were apparently inflicted with a large table-knife, but no such weapon nor any clothes stained with blood have as yet been found on the premises.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE ROYAL PERSONAGES.—Previous to the departure on Saturday last of the King of the Belgians for Ostend his Majesty honoured Mr. Mayall, of Argyll-place, Regent-street, with a sitting for a photograph for the Queen's collection. At the first sitting Mr. Mayall was fortunate in producing a very happy portrait; and was not less successful with his Royal Highness the Count of Flanders, who afterwards honoured him with a sitting. Mr. John Watkins, the photographer, of Parliament-street, had the honour of attending at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday morning and taking sittings of the Prince of Wales prior to his departure for Canada. Major-General the Hon. R. Bruce, Governor of the Prince of Wales, also sat to Mr. Watkins, by whom portraits of Earl St. Germans and Major Peesdale and previously been taken, thus completing a series of photographs of the gentlemen who will officially accompany the Prince of Wales to the United States.

A POOR PRINCE.—The Elector of Hesse has compelled one of his sons who, like all the others, bears the title of Prince of Hanau, to live separated from his wife, whom he married against his father's will, and whose unassuming maiden name was Miss Birnbaum. This son, who has now got two bachelor's apartments in the palace, receives from his father an allowance of only £220 yearly, of which he has to pay £100 for the maintenance of his wife, while of the remaining £120 one-half has, for a series of years, been legally secured for the benefit of his creditors, so that the Prince has now to make both ends meet with free lodgings and £60 a year. So, at least, reports the *Cologne Gazette*.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE late murder of a wife by a Frenchman in Oxford-street, apart from its mere circumstantial details, presents one or two points of speculative interest. It will be seen that an attempt had been made to render the body of the victim portable by mutilation. It appears a curious fact that, in almost every case where a body has been mutilated with this view, the homicide has been represented by the criminal to have been unintentional. Good and Greenacre furnish examples; and the unfortunate Frenchman now under consideration appears to be no exception. This matter is curious, but perhaps not inexplicable, if the various sentiments of a deliberate criminal and one in the heat of fury committing an irreparable crime could be appreciated by philosophers who should care to enter upon the inquiry. But British jurors are far above or below such speculations. The rule with them is always to return a verdict of wilful murder where there has been mutilation. This is one of their idiosyncrasies; and another is never to return a verdict of murder against a man who has murdered a woman by other means than poison or bloodshed. The former of these has been curiously exemplified in the case before us. The murderer killed himself, and the jury, after inquiring into his state of mind, returned the usual verdict of "Temporary insanity." Another jury sat upon the murdered woman, and gave a verdict of "Wilful murder" against her slayer. Now, as a maniac cannot commit wilful murder, it follows that one of these verdicts must be untrue, or that it is to be believed that one of these senses can commit a horrible murder, and, immediately losing his reason, commit suicide for fear of being hanged, or in an agony of remorse for the deed. As a madman can neither be capable of repenting the past or of dreading the future, it follows that the latter position must be untenable.

Lord William Godolphin Osborne, son of the Duke of Leeds, appeared as an insolvent at Cambridge last week. His debts amounted to £1066, of which those for which he admitted consideration were under £700. These were incurred within a period of five years. The noble insolvent stated his age to be twenty-five. He also alleged that up to the age of twenty-one his allowance from his father had been £12 per annum, and after his majority he had been allowed £100 a year. By donations from his father he had received in addition to this nearly £500, and from this and other sources, including legacies, in all £1685 5s. 9d. He swore that he had not received more than £100 in all from one Cohen, a creditor on various bills amounting to £210. He said he had asked his father to help him through his difficulties, and the noble Duke said he could not at present. "I expected something of my father. Every son in my position does. My only prospect of paying was that which every son of a Duke has." On the other side, Cohen swore that the insolvent had had of him more than £200. The following extract from Cohen's examination appears to have amused the auditory:—

Witness: When I urged insolvent for payment he said, "I have a hamper of plate you shall have as security, but I cannot get it out to-day, as the butler is in the way." Another time he said, perhaps his father would not like the plate to go out, as it had the family initials on it, and would therefore, perhaps, lend him the money on it himself, but it was his (insolvent's) own. That sort of conversation took place three times. I was to have the plate as security. I credited him no more after that. I went three times to Gogmagog after the plate.

The Judge: What! You went after he said the butler was in the way?

Witness: Yes.

The Judge: People had better take care of their plate, then.

Witness: He said I was not to let the butler know what was in the wind.

The Judge: But that was going too near the wind, when there was only a butler between a money-lender and the family plate.

One other little incident worthy of notice transpired during the examination, and is thus reported. The insolvent said:—

I bought three diamonds rings of Mr. Wilson, jeweller, of Cambridge. Wilson is a creditor for £30. I have not delivered them to the bailiff. They are not in my possession. I made presents of them. Don't know that it is necessary for a gentleman in the receipt of £100 a year to make presents of diamond rings. I wished to make presents, and did so.

His counsel ask—

To whom did you give them?—Insolvent: To my sisters.

Mr. Naylor—I did not desire to bring that out; but, as it is out, I must say I think the rings should be returned to the creditors.

On this there was another applause in court. It is said that the insolvent's counsel passed some strictures on the close allowance on which the insolvent, as son of an ENGLISH DUKE, and necessitated to maintain his position, had been kept. Something of this kind occurs to us in connection with a lodging-house-keeper who kept a cat and never gave her any food. The cat supplied herself from the lodgers' pantries, and lived a dishonest, expensive life. In the case before us, however, the learned Judge said that he was bound to make an example of the insolvent to other persons of his class. Perhaps, as sons of English Dukes are not ordinarily kept upon £100 per annum, with perquisites, this class may be limited. The imprisonment of the noble insolvent was decreed to extend to six calendar months from the date of the vesting order.

MURDER AND SUICIDE.

ANTOINE DEHRENG, a Frenchman, murdered his wife last week, and then killed himself, in broad day, in Hyde Park. He fired one pistol, crossed the road, fired another, and then cut his throat. On entering his abode his wife's body was found lying naked on the floor, the head being thrown into a cupboard. From the evidence adduced before the Coroner it seems that Dehreng lived unhappily with his wife. About a year ago he was sent to prison for striking her; and that—or rather his wife's evidence against him—greatly exasperated him. She was a Scotchwoman. Her sister, Jane Macdonald, said Dehreng always treated her very cruelly. "She never had a happy hour after she married him. He was a very passionate man; he would occasionally open the window and throw out his food, and he used to take up some little kittens they had and kill them before her, which shocked her so much that she was in the habit of coming crying to me. They had often tried to persuade her to leave him." George Dehreng, brother of the deceased, who appeared very much affected, said Antoine was most eccentric in all his ways. His mind was not always right. He was always saying he would commit suicide. He said he could not survive the disgrace of his imprisonment—he could not forget the punishment he had undergone. The deceased came to witness's house on Thursday morning and said he wanted to speak to him. He was in a very agitated state. Witness asked him what was the matter. He told him to call a cab, and he would let him know. Witness did so, and then Antoine told him that he had murdered his wife, and meant to commit suicide. About eighteen months ago the deceased and his wife had quarrelled, which resulted in a separation by mutual consent, the going to her friends in Liverpool, and he remaining in London; that for about a fortnight he took home a young woman whose acquaintance he had made. One day his wife returned unexpectedly in his absence, and, finding the young woman in question in the house, she abused her, tore her clothes, turned her into the street, and then locked up the house and was going away when the husband made his appearance, and, on learning what had happened, had a violent quarrel with his wife, whom he struck.

Three letters, addressed to his brother, were found in the unhappy man's pockets. They were written in an incoherent, raving tone, sometimes accusing, sometimes excusing, himself, with occasional exclamations for "mercy! mercy! mercy!"—"Poor dear creature," he says in one place, "her lifeless body is lying where I struck her. I hope for mercy in your eyes and of society, for our human frame is very weak, as, for example, the Catholics murder the Protestants, and the Protestants burn the Catholics in Smithfield. So that will show to you what man is really. Ah! it is possible that I have committed such a crime! Oh, mercy, mercy! I am not guilty. Nature has not favoured me. I have a most violent temper, and, unfortunately, instead of having been united to a docile woman for a partner for life, I have met with a most violent woman that could be found. But I forgive her, the poor dear creature."

A medical witness stated that the left breast of the deceased was tattooed with the words, in bad French, "Morts aux femmes infidèles," with a figure of a woman below, which appeared to have been done some years ago.

The jury returned a verdict of insanity.

INDIAN MUTINY COMPENSATION.—Despatches have been laid before Parliament in which Sir C. Wood states the decision of the Government not to grant more than 10,000,000 rupees for compensation, to be ratably distributed among the sufferers, whether Europeans or natives of India, whose active loyalty can be clearly established. In consequence of the condition of the finances of India this sum is paid out of the general revenue of the State.

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(Signed) "SHERIDAN MUSPRATT,
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